

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

WORKINGS OF WILLINGHOOD.

NO. XII.

GENIALITY, KINDLINESS, FIDELITY.

WE are not of those, and we have more than once confessed it, who believe that speech should be always soft as velvet, and glossy as silk. The treble pipe which enters the ear with a welcome, is sometimes the precursor of bitter meanings, as a pretty page will sometimes herald the approach of a hectoring tyrant. A harsh and husky voice often does duty for a generous and sympathising heart. It has become fashionable, we know, to think otherwise. The polished conventionalism of aristocracy is coming to be regarded as all one with the kindness of Christianity; and uttering, on all occasions, "duleat and harmonious breath," is identified with exhibiting the spirit of the gospel. We have known gentlemen of singular religious pretence, ludicrously exemplify this too prevalent mistake—insinuatingly and blandly whisper to scoffers, that "it's a thousand pities they won't believe"—and seek to discharge themselves of their protest against error and sin, much as Bully Bottom promised to play the lion's part—"roar you as gently as any sucking dove—roar you an it were any nightingale." We have no taste for this dreary monotony of simpering politenesses. We soon grow weary of sentiments and modes of expression, which slip forth from the mouth or pen, as glibly and noiselessly as streams from the tap of a sweet-oil butt. The truth is, where a great work is to be done, we must expect to hear the clatter of "axes and hammers"—and the old saw contains not a little practical philosophy—"Fair words butter no parsnips."

Constrained to confess this much, we feel it nevertheless incumbent upon us to show that willinghood, allowed to develop itself according to its own nature, will produce the richest specimens, not of fidelity merely, but of geniality and kindness. There is nothing in the laws of its own being—nothing in the necessary modes of its working—to require rude and offensive airs. It is not a Grantley Berkeley, whose unflinching resource in every exigency is "a punch in the head." It can calmly say No, without planting itself forthwith in a squaring attitude. It can remonstrate with wrong-doing without gnashing its teeth. It is neither compelled nor disposed, in advocacy of truth, to pelt her assailants with the first missiles of scorn upon which it can lay hands. Its mission does not ask an unintermitting display of puckered brows, clenched fists, and stamping feet. It has nothing in common with the irascible passions—no partnership with "envy, malice, and all uncharitableness." On the contrary, when truest to itself and its principles, it is always calmest and most self-possessed. Brawling may suit idleness; but, wherever anything of "mark and likelihood" is to be done, and there is a willing determination to set about it, there will be a reluctance to waste the energies in paltry and personal collisions.

The irritability which is invariably giving itself out in burly and blustering words, and deeds of untoward texture, is common enough, and not unnatural, where conscience is out of joint. When men are driven, by stress of circumstances, upon courses which their judgments disapprove or their hearts dislike, it is not wonderful that they should become snappish and morose. It is no unheard-of thing for people to fire off against others the indignation which their own misdeeds excite within them, nor for those individuals who are at war with their own convictions to take up menacing positions against all surrounding neighbours. It is easier, and far more grateful, moreover, to divert the revenge of an ill-treated conscience to the inconsistencies of others, than to let its blows fall upon our defenceless selves. We seem to compass a

double gain thereby—an opportunity for crying, "Come, see my zeal"—and a temporary release from the oburgations of self-reproach. Depend upon it, they who will go any distance out of their way to hit a blot, are glad of any pretext of being away from home—just as a habit of suspecting everybody indicates a more than decent familiarity with suspicious motives.

Willinghood, if it be sincere, is at ease with itself. It has laid its heart at the feet of its judgment, and is content to let it abide there. There is, therefore, an inward harmony ever at hand, like the harp of David, to drive away "evil spirits;" and whatever goes forth from this tranquil centre will be of like nature with itself. Geniality and kindness will be the twin handmaidens of fidelity. Things done, and things left undone, will be regulated by a supreme regard for truth, and, consequently, by a rational desire for the highest interests of society. Goodness, not impulsive and arbitrary, but directed by such wisdom as can be commanded, will prompt our undertakings and shape our acts. He who has yielded himself up, after due inquiry and courtship, to truth—who has taken her "for better, for worse," to love, honour, revere, and obey her—is under comparatively little temptation to let his combative propensities run riot. The object of his devotion will have the pith of his energies, and his strength will grow up in one single stem of consecrated obedience. In tune with himself, he will be aptly inclined to be in tune with all. The discords awakened by his faithfulness are no more a part of him, no more agreeable with his nature, than the war-cry of savages is attributable to, or in consonance with, the philanthropic zeal of the missionary who seeks their reclamation. They are not the most humane surgeons whose hands tremble with the lancet in the limb, and who leave tying up a bleeding artery to wipe away their own tears of distress. The pain occasioned by scarifying or amputation does not imply cruelty in the operator. Let us not mistake here. Genuine kindness does not uniformly dictate either words or deeds which will prove agreeable to others, but rather such as unbiased reason will decide upon as best fitted to do good. Whatever is done by willinghood should be done at the suggestion of true benevolence; and it may reply to its own occasional misgivings, as well as to the complaints of those whom it has wounded, "For, though I made you sorry, I do not repent, though I did repent."

The genial bent of willinghood, however, will display itself most prominently in its chosen methods of maintaining and enforcing the doctrines it has received. Where error crosses its path, it will not spare to catch and strip it. The hypocrisy which aims at misleading it, it will denounce with becoming vehemence. It will show no toleration to vice, nor dispense hollow compliments to meanness. But the staple of its effort—the business to which it will give itself with spontaneity and delight—will be the winning and impressive manifestation of truth. To unveil its intrinsic loveliness—to dispatiate upon its excellencies and charms—to point out its glorious symmetry—to show its harmony with all the conclusions of right-mindedness—to cast upon it the different lights of past and passing providential dispensations—to trace out its practical influences, and the bearings which they have upon human destiny—in a word, to make it as attractive as it is good, and cause it to be as much loved as it is really amiable—this is the method which willinghood will prefer. In such engagements as these it will move in its own element—gracefully, delightedly. To build up will be more in unison with its final objects than to destroy. To bless, rather than to curse, will be regarded as its appointed mission.

Thus have we attempted to convey to our readers some adequate idea of the "Workings of Willinghood." The illustrations we have selected are not all that have occurred to us, but they may suffice for the purpose we had originally in view. It was our object to enlarge prevailing notions as to the nature and claims of the noble principle which is represented by its name. We hope that to some extent we may have succeeded in this effort—and that the course of our remarks has contributed to raise admiration of, and deeper respect for, scriptural voluntarism. We now purpose taking leave of the subject, and, with the close of the present volume of the *Nonconformist*, closing the present series of articles. Under other circumstances, we might have wished to prolong our observations—but propriety as well as convenience bid us hasten to wish our indulgent readers "a very happy new year."

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION. THE DEPUTATION TO SCOTLAND.

PUBLIC MEETING AT PAISLEY. (From the *Renfrew Advertiser*.)

According to advertisement in our last, a public meeting took place on the evening of Tuesday, in the United Secession Church, Abbey-close, for the purpose of hearing a deputation from the British Anti-state-church Association, consisting of the Rev. John Burnet, of Camberwell, and Edward Miall, Esq., editor of the *Nonconformist* newspaper. About 700 persons were present. On the motion of the Rev. Mr. M'Dougall, the Rev. Dr. Baird was called to the chair. The chairman was supported, right and left, by the Rev. John Burnet, and Edward Miall, Esq., the deputation; and the Rev. Messrs. M'Dougall, Kennedy, and Nisbet, and Hugh M'Farlane, Esq. The Rev. Mr. Nisbet having opened the proceedings with an impressive prayer,

The CHAIRMAN read a letter of apology for absence from the Rev. Mr. France. He then proceeded to say, that it was altogether unnecessary for him to enter into any statement with regard to the objects contemplated by their deputation, they were so much better able to state them for themselves. He referred to the circumstances in which they were placed, assembling in this matter after such a long state of quiescence. He said that the agitations through which they had passed for a number of years had been so numerous, that the public mind had been much overwrought, and most persons were disposed to congratulate themselves on a little quiet. They felt in circumstances as if it were a delightful thing to have a little quiet. The progress of events, however, was such that very little rest would be accorded for a length of time to come. Society had overgrown its ancient limits—new interests had sprung up, for which provision must be made. In order to accomplish this, agitations must be encountered. However unfitting the present arrangements of society might be to its condition, yet there were influential persons who had a positive interest in things as they were; and, in order to have any of these interests adapted to a sounder state of things, it was necessary to encounter a very great deal of harassing agitation. He was far, however, from thinking, although the public mind had been quiet (with the exception of the little stir they had in reference to the Maynooth grant a while ago) that correct views upon the great subject to which their attention was to be called that night, had made no progress. His own conviction was, that there had been a great deal of progress. There were many evils arose out of the discussions on the voluntary controversy. Friendships were cooled, and society, as it were, was for a time rent in pieces. Notwithstanding, great results had grown out of it. They found, amongst other things, many of those who occupied the place of defenders of the Church, as it then existed, had found their position to be very different from what they then supposed it. They had been compelled to abandon their former relation; and, although they had not taken up the position they could have wished, they had assumed a position of direct opposition to every state-church that existed in the empire [cheers]. This was a circumstance of no ordinary magnitude, and one which would go far to aid on the great object they had all along contemplated. It was true that they approached this object on grounds somewhat different from them. But, although they did not take the theoretical view of it which they did, they came to a much nearer approximation of sentiment than they imagined. In the midst of the noise and confusion of the conflict were very considerable misapprehensions of the opinions of both parties. It was no uncommon thing for voluntaries to regard those who spoke very much of the spiritual independence of the church as insincere. Matters, however, had turned out to show that they were perfectly sincere. They had made great sacrifices in order to secure what they conceived a necessary part of the Church—its spiritual independence. There were misapprehensions of their views too. It was a common thing to hear that the voluntaries altogether denied the sovereignty of Christ over the nations. They, however, held that principle as decidedly as any man amongst the other party, but they held that, while the civil magistrate was bound to do what he could for religion, he had no right to usurp the right of conscience. He thought that the day was not very far distant when those parties opposed to existing state churches would draw closer to one another [cheers]. After a few further observations, he concluded by introducing

The Rev. Mr. BURNET, who said, on rising to address this meeting:—

I have no doubt that you will all concur in thinking, that rest is more agreeable than agitation. But, sir, there is

nothing at rest in our times in this world [laughter]. No one ever thinks of looking for rest from banking—one gets on and other is started. No sooner does that one succeed than a third is begun, and so on. It is the same with machinery. It is so with railroads. Railroads are laid down throughout the kingdom in our day, and they are proceeding at a most amazing degree. If they go on as they are doing, you will soon be able to whirl round the world in a few weeks [laughter]. People seem to be delighting in activity, and if in everything we find activity so wonderfully displayed, shall we hesitate in the greatest of all works, the work of God—shall we hesitate to give our powers to the work for which they were intended—shall we for a moment shrink from duty, however much the labour may be? What is it that stands in our way? Is there any obstacle to the extension of the gospel which we can remove? What has promoted the extension of religion throughout the world? Was it not the handing of the liberties of the church over to the bondage of the state? Can we for a moment suppose, if the state had had nothing to do with the reforms which sprang from Luther and Calvin, that Europe would have been in the state in which it is now? We find at present the whole of Europe in the hands of the state in matters of religion. Can we, therefore, hope for success without a struggle? Send a missionary into France, and if he have not a Government order he cannot preach. Send him to Prussia, and the case is the same. Send him anywhere you please on the continent, and the state tells him he must not preach. Some may tell us that Europe is not so badly off as this, for in France all parties are paid by the state, and none are forbidden to teach or preach. The state of France is much misunderstood. In France no party is paid by the state without the state possessing a veto upon the election of any minister, and the introduction of any books into the schools. If you look to France you will find everything in connexion with religion so centralised that the sovereign exercises his power over all. He will give salaries, but he must have services for them. There is a leaning to centralisation stealing in among our own statesmen, and they appear to be willing to pay everybody in order that they may control everybody; so that you are in full march to the very position of religion and education in France [cheers]. Statesmen have whispered this among themselves, for they whisper—they are cunning men [laughter], and, in the exercise of their cunning, they carry things their own way before the victims of their statecraft be aware. You find them ready to endow Episcopacy in England, Presbyterianism in Scotland, and the Church of England in Ireland, and now you find them ready to endow Roman Catholicism in Ireland also. Now they think they can make some grand attempt on the Church of Rome in Ireland, by endowing her. Out of what do you think? Out of the public money [cheers]. When Government gives money and government grants, people think they are very generous [laughter]. People forget that it is our money [laughter]. Government get the money—they get good salaries—they are the getters and not the givers, and we are the givers [laughter]. We think we are getting something through them, whereas the fact is they get and we give [laughter]. Besides, not being satisfied with their own salaries out of your purses, they are going to give salaries to the Roman Catholic priests in Ireland [cheers and laughter]. Let me remind you that if they are going to pay money, they must pay it out of the Protestant money of England and Scotland. There are no government taxes in Ireland. We have income tax, window tax, house tax, &c. They have none of these. They pay none of the taxes that go directly to Government. Under these circumstances, if the priests are to be paid out of the taxes, out of your own pockets must come the money. You may say, We don't believe they will endow the Roman Catholics—no ministry will attempt such a thing. Why, this was held with regard to the endowment of Maynooth. They did it in spite of you. There was no great agitation made after they threw out the hint, and they went on and completed the job. They have hinted in both houses of Parliament, that it would be a desirable thing to endow Popery in Ireland. What did Lord Howick say in the House of Lords? That he would like to see Roman Catholic bishops going into the House of Lords and legislating. We have enough of bishop legislation [cheers]. We want them to go out of that house, mind their own business, and not meddle with politics. For we find that they tell us not to meddle with politics [cheers]. They will watch you and see whether you will go on agitating. They will see whether you will take it quietly, or with a little under-ground grumbling. You may say that they will lose their power, but who will take the power? Will they attend, it may be asked, to any of our agitation? Ireland furnishes a striking example of the power of agitation. It was by agitation that she obtained Catholic emancipation, as well as other things. When we see agitation work so well in one part of the kingdom, why not try it in all? It is just this agitation we wish you to try, in order to avoid the burden of the endowment of Popery. We are, however, not only against the endowment of Popery, but we are against every endowment. I warn you, as I warned others, against going on the ground that Popery is to be endowed. If you do this, the Government will say you are bigoted. You could never succeed on that ground. But tell them that we wish the Church and State to be separated—that we refuse endowments ourselves, and we would refuse them, also, to others. They can understand this. They will say, These people are consistent. If they will give nothing, they will take nothing. Take that ground and keep it, and go on and agitate until you have succeeded on that ground. If you go on with the cry of "No Popery," you will be defeated. We ask to do away with all endowments in order to begin a movement that may go on throughout the world, until the religion of Christ be known everywhere in its purity. We ask that all the churches may be Free Churches. I am sure our brethren of the Free Church would have no objection to this [laughter]. What we want the Government to do is to mind its own business—that of protecting the lives and liberties of the subject. The moment they go further than this, they have left their own proper province. They might tell you what furniture you are to have, as well as give you a religion. They might tell you what clothes you were to wear, and what food you were to eat, as well as tell you how to worship. I would rather they should tell me what furniture I was to have in my house than what ideas I was to have in my head [cheers and laughter]. They tell in England what sort of prayer-books I am to have. They tell me what to pray, every word of it, no more and no less. They go further than this. They appoint bishops over me. These bishops are appointed by the Queen. A letter is sent, stating that the people are to choose a good man. The name of the man is Jones, and they are to choose that man and no other [laughter]. Now, if we find such a state of things, is it not right that we should tell the Governments of the world that they have turned religion into a farce—a terrible farce? Some people say, You should not meddle with politics. When we meddle with politics in this case, we meddle with them in order to get rid of them. The Establishment people, who tell us not to meddle with politics, forget that their church is governed by politics. They tell us not to meddle with politics—they want them all to themselves [great cheering]. The British Anti-state-church Association has been formed for the pur-

pose of aiding on the great work; and let me remind you that it is not an English nor a London Association—it is a British Association. You should enter your names as members of it, and contribute to its funds to enable it to work. After a few farther remarks, the reverend gentleman resumed his seat amidst much applause.

EDWARD MIALI, Esq., then came forward, and said:—

Mr. Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen,—I, equally as others, am indisposed naturally to the inconveniences and self-sacrifices imposed on us by a work of agitation; but I, equally with my friend Mr. Burnet, approve of agitation for the diffusion of truth of any kind, as beneficial to society rather than injurious. Every age agitates for the age to come after it, and if we could conceive of a state of society in which there was no vigorous circulation of practical ideas, there would be a stagnation which would almost inevitably tend to social impurity. We have had truth committed to us by the Great Guardian of truth, not for our own sakes, but that we might diffuse it. We are placed in a position in this world purposely adapted, by his infinite wisdom and providence, to exercise all our mental and moral faculties. There can be no real enjoyment, of either a moral or spiritual kind, without activity and agitation, any more than there can be bodily health without daily exercise. It is also of some importance that we should learn, as we pass through life, to calculate upon difficulties. But why should we not go forth to meet them? The difficulty is but the measure of the vigour which we ought to put forth in order to overcome it. We are appointed to struggle with difficulties. Let us never be afraid to spend our whole life in endeavouring to communicate good to others. I know that it will be felt by the Scottish people that for a deputation to come all the way from London to communicate knowledge on this question, is very much like carrying coals to Newcastle [laughter]. I have heard, and believe, that the Dissenters north of the Tweed are thoroughly instructed in this question. Permit me, as an Englishman, somewhat jealous of my country too, to suggest, that although you may be well instructed on the proper connexion between the premises and the conclusion, that it is just possible for you to have some very powerful illustrations of the evils arising from the connexion between Church and State, drawn from the south. After all, it is not sufficient for us simply to hold the principle. It appears to me that the voluntary principle in Scotland is held as a doctrine. Very frequently, when we have been going from one place to another, it has been put to us as a great difficulty, that there is at present no practical object before us. The matter is regarded as an entire abstraction. The subject is looked upon as merely theoretical. The discussion of it will be set down as a discussion which can tend to no immediate practical conclusion. The State-church itself is a mere matter of theory. In practice it is constantly at work, and the evil it produces is really oppressing, and affects not merely the civil liberties, but the spiritual privileges of men. It goes into every village in the empire, interferes with the spiritual liberty of the subject, and so interferes as to send millions of immortal souls deluded into eternity respecting their eternal state. Is not this a practical evil, and does the attempt to remove this evil and practical abuse, not call for the firm, serious, prayerful, and persevering efforts of every enlightened Christian? Can we say, when we are moving against this mass of corruption, that we have no practical matter before us? When Carey went forth to instruct the heathens of Hindostan, had he before him a more practical object than we have at present? When the Reformers went forward at the period of the Revolution, had they before them a more practical object than we have? I call upon you to join us in effecting a practical object—to aid in putting down State-churches in all the forms which they assume in our empire. I call on you not merely to act on the defensive, but I call on you, out of love to your own principles, with a view to put down a constant, perpetually increasing evil [cheers]. I call on you now to agitate for the deliverance of the church of Christ from that thralldom and those fetters in which she is now bound [loud cheering]. Just consider the position in which Great Britain has been placed by State-churches. Here is the remedy for the moral darkness and disease of man—the light of truth which was to enlighten all nations, under the guidance and superintendence of Him who sits upon the throne. Here is this beautiful system, reflecting all the harmony and all the perfections of the Godhead, and intended to effect the moral and spiritual reformation of mankind, actually seized on by the Government of this country, and debased into a tool for working out their own selfish purposes [cheers]. And we who know that Christianity is thus interfered with—her beauty marred, her powers spoiled, and feel that the thousands and tens of thousands who come within the range of her power are deprived of their proper instruction—we who know and feel all this, say that we have no practical object worthy of our pursuit at present. I cannot understand how men holding our principles can, out of deference to any authority whatever, place in abeyance the discussion of these principles. I do great honour to the courtesy with which you have been characterised towards your Free Church friends. I think your kindness has been rather too forbearing; and, in fact, that some advantage has been taken of it. There is, I fear, some evil likely to occur in consequence of your not having kindly, with tenderness and forbearance, but with firmness of mind, presented this principle to the minds of your friends. They had just come out from a state of slavery. They felt somewhat of the state of freshness of feeling which people feel when they pass from bondage into liberty. It may be that, in the height of their zeal, they would have been indisposed to listen to you; but have you not permitted them to settle down into a church without informing them decisively respecting the absolute importance of this principle? Have you not, by fraternising with them, and not mentioning the principle at the same time, led them in some measure to look upon it as more theoretical than practical after all? I think you will agree with me that your courtesy has been carried on quite long enough. It is time for you to arise and go forth for the maintenance of this principle. I may just inform you that, although I have not the smallest doubt that the effect of your cautiousness may have been to conciliate your Free Church friends, it has had bad effects on your southern friends. They point to Scotland, and say that you have felt the bad effects of agitation, and that it interfered with your spirituality. Let bygones be bygones, and let us act for the future. We want to have one combined, united, energetic movement, not merely to prevent the further extension of the principle of establishments in the endowment of Popery in Ireland, but to overthrow all existing establishments. We wish to enlighten the mind of the public, so that it may be rendered impossible to sustain the existing establishments, when their position may be ended in question. We wish to wage this warfare, not against particular creeds, but against the mode of maintenance. We wish to throw no discredit on the doctrines of any party whatever. We belong, in this warfare, to no sect, denomination, or class. We unite with all those who wish to put an end to existing establishments of religion. We are exceedingly anxious that there should be a united movement. Mr. M. next proceeded to give some account

of the Anti-state-church Association, which was formed, he said, at a conference of the Dissenting body, in 1844. It consisted of 690 representatives from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Their sittings occupied three days, and they came to the resolution to agitate for a separation of the Church from the State, and took such means as would protect them against injury from their enemies, and they determined that the Association should resolve into itself every three years. The council consisted of 520 gentlemen belonging to different parts of the country. The affairs of the Association were conducted by an executive committee consisting of fifty members. Hitherto the officers of the Society had given their services gratuitously; but, as the business would now occupy more time, it would be necessary to appoint paid officers.

On sitting down, Mr. M. was warmly applauded.

The Rev. Mr. M'DUGALL then rose, and, in a few observations, proposed a resolution expressive of sympathy in the anti-state-church movement, and also the appointment of a committee for the purpose of co-operating with the British Anti-state-church Association. Agreed to by acclamation.

The following gentlemen were then elected a committee:—viz., the Rev. William Ramage, Rev. Mr. Weir, and Messrs. Andrew Aitken, John Watt, Hugh Craig, John M'Kay, Andrew Oliver, William Muir, Nicol Cameron, and Thomas Mack.

The Rev. Mr. KENNEDY then, in a short speech, moved that the cordial thanks of the meeting be given to Messrs. Burnet and Miall for the able addresses they had delivered [great applause].

After a few observations from the CHAIRMAN, Mr. BURNET replied.

The Rev. Mr. M'DUGALL then pronounced the blessing, and the meeting broke up.

KILMARNOCK.

The deputation from the British Anti-state-church Association—being Edward Miall, Esq., and the Rev. Mr. Burnet—visited Kilmarnock on Wednesday last, in furtherance of the objects of the association, and held a meeting in the Relief Church, at seven o'clock in the evening of that day. The Rev. William Ramage, minister of the church, ably occupied the chair. The meeting was not so numerously attended as the popularity of the gentlemen comprising the deputation, and the importance of the subject to be treated, led us to anticipate. Shortly after the hour of meeting, Mr. Ramage took the chair; and, after alluding to the high talent and distinction of the gentlemen who had been deputed to address them, proceeded publicly to record his opinion—an opinion which he said he believed was well known to the meeting—of his entire concurrence in the views to be promulgated by the deputation representing the Anti-state-church Association. He concluded by introducing Mr. Miall, who was cordially received, and addressed the meeting at some length. In the course of his speech he said:—"We are not against Episcopacy or Independency, but we go upon the principle that all religion should be supported independent of the Government [applause]. It is the liberation of religion from all State thralldom we have in view, and are determined to effect our purpose. We have met with a warm reception in all the towns we have visited. We come now to Kilmarnock. It will not do for us to state that Kilmarnock was the only place which did not sympathise with us. I think I see the struggle with which Kilmarnock contended for the voluntary principle some ten or twelve years ago, and I hope you will not now fail to unite, heart in heart, and hand in hand, with your brethren in the south, with the same energy you threw into the matter when it was formerly advocated among you. Mr. Burnet urged for some time the necessity of Scotsmen lending their support to the Anti-state-church Association with the view, in the first place, of preventing the grant to Irish Catholics, and mainly to bring about the separation of the State from all religious interference or endowments. Our limits prevent our giving at greater length the conclusion of his address. He was listened to throughout with the utmost attention. The Rev. Mr. Ramage, after a few remarks, proposed that the thanks of the meeting be given to the deputation. The motion was cordially responded to. Mr. Andrew Oliver then moved that a committee be appointed to carry out the views of the association. The motion was seconded by Mr. Muir, bookseller, and agreed to.—Abridged from the Kilmarnock Herald.

THE BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—The deputation which has just visited our city, has done much to show Dissenters and Churchmen too, that the only possible way of opposing Government, is to take the ground of a universal Voluntarism—to seek no favour from the Government, and to refuse to grant favours to others. We are quite satisfied that many Churchmen feel the difficulty of their present position, and, indeed, have declared their preference of withdrawing all endowments to endowing Roman Catholicism. We are as much opposed to the errors of Popery as any can be, but we see no reason why Catholics should be taxed to support Protestantism, while Protestantism refuses to be taxed to support Catholicism. Let us do to others as we wish them to do for us; but let no man's conscience or purse be made to support what it is opposed to on religious grounds. We are happy to learn that the public have appreciated the visit of Messrs. Burnet and Miall. Both these gentlemen have been most cordially received, and their merits are spoken of by all classes with unmingled satisfaction.—Glasgow Examiner.

CHURCH-RATES.—MAIDSTONE.

On Thursday week, a vestry meeting was held at ten o'clock, in All Saints' Church, Maidstone, for the making of a new church-rate. An adjournment took place to the western end of the church. The Rev. W. Vallance, perpetual curate, presided. The Earl of Romney attended (we believe for the first time at any church-rate meeting), also Capt. Scott, several of the Established clergy, and most of the heads of the Church party.

Mr. F. SCUDAMORE, minister's churchwarden, read an estimate of repairs required, amounting to £738 18s.,

and moved a rate of threepence in the pound, which was seconded by Mr. C. Arkcoll, the parochial churchwarden. Mr. Dobney, Baptist minister, in an eloquent speech, argued against all compulsory measures for the support of religion. He concluded as follows:—

When, in addition to all this, I remember what it is that we are compelled to support under the abused name of Christianity, I feel still more deeply moved to avail myself of every proper opportunity of lifting up my voice in earnest protest against it. For what is it, gentlemen, that we are taxed for? What is the nature of those services which our money is taken from us to sustain? I feel bound to affirm, and am ready to maintain anywhere, that, from the priestly assertion at the font, that a certain ceremony makes the unconscious babe a child of God (and which, though an untruth, is sedulously taught the young in your "Church Catechism"), to the last solemn declaration, over all characters indiscriminately, that they are buried "in sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection," I say, from the first assertion at the font, to the last over all that are interred in what you call consecrated ground, there is a terrible perversion and disfigurement of Christianity, and an awful delusion, systematically maintained. Plainly, this is not the Christianity of the New Testament; and I, for one, at all risks, refuse to assist in keeping up a system which renders Christ's holy and beautiful religion odious in the eyes of many, while, in numerous ways, it does most serious injury to the understandings of men, and, in too many cases, fearfully perils their highest interest [cheers].

Mr. NELMS felt, as a Protestant Unitarian Dissenter, aggrieved at being compelled against his will to pay towards the support of a mode of worship which he highly disapproved of, and in his conscience rejected.

Mr. WHITING, editor of the *Gazette*, contended, that the refusal to put an amendment, fairly worded, bearing strictly upon the question at issue, and duly moved and seconded, was a most unwarrantable encroachment on the free expression of the opinions of the parishioners [hear, hear]. He said—

I see, standing amongst you, a noble peer of the realm, whose word of honour is, by our constitution, tantamount to an oath; I see a gentleman connected with the army, to whom honour is dearer than life; I see before me men who are incapable of an unworthy act in any other relation of life. How can you reconcile this chivalrous sense of honour, this self-devotion to the calls of high principle, this steady adherence to commercial integrity, with the meanness of coming down here to take away the money of the poor Dissenters to pay the cost of your religion [cheers].

A PARISHIONER moved, as an amendment, that "all previous rates be collected before another rate should be made;" and, with another parishioner, who seconded the amendment, complained that some parishioners were called on to pay, year after year, whilst those, who positively refused to pay the rate, were never troubled at all.

Mr. DOBNEY said that he could not vote for any amendment which authorised a distraint for church-rates. He had not paid a rate for several years, and never meant to pay another [cheers]; and he felt bound to say that he believed that the churchwardens had not distrained on those who had objected to pay, more from kindness and courtesy, than any other consideration. Indeed, he had always, with one exception, received from them the greatest courtesy, although he never meant to pay.

Mr. A. RANDALL said, that the amendment was a very fair one, but thought that it had better be withdrawn; and, looking at the character of their present churchwardens, that the matter had better be left in their hands. The discussion on it had, no doubt, done good.

Mr. T. PINE objected to the distraining upon anybody. He had reluctantly paid the rate, and he certainly would not sanction its exaction from any person who conscientiously objected to pay it.

The amendment, which was viewed more in the light of an authority to the churchwardens to distrain, than a denunciation of the rate, was then put to the meeting; but was supported by very few persons, and was, consequently, lost.

The original motion was then put, and, on a division, there appeared:—For the rate, 78; against it, 75; majority for the rate, 3.—Abridged from the *Maidstone Gazette*.

RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE IN IRELAND.

A case of great hardship and persecution, affording, too, a striking example of the insecurity of the tenant against the tyranny of the landlord, has been brought under our notice in a pamphlet, consisting of a letter to Mr. O'Connell, entitled "Landlord Oppression Exemplified." Although it is some time since the circumstance took place, it is still fresh in the recollection of the inhabitants of the district, and, it is said, has deterred many from the free expression of any political opinion opposed to that of their landlord. The case to which we allude is that of Mr. William Berwick, formerly of Lincabreen-house, in the county of Down. It appears that this gentleman purchased a farm, held under the Marquis of Downshire, subject to the yearly rent of £58 16s., for the good-will of which he paid the sum of £1,000, and on which he expended a further sum of £800 in permanent and lasting improvements. In the course of the ten years during which he remained in occupation, Mr. Berwick asserts that he incurred the anger of the late marquis for the active part which he took in getting up and forwarding petitions to Parliament, for the total abolition of tithes and church-cess. "Whatever the consequences might be," says Mr. Berwick, in his pamphlet, "I was firmly determined, at all hazards, to use my utmost exertions in promoting petitions for the total abolition of tithes and church-cess; and I sincerely hoped that every parish in the kingdom would follow the example set by Knockbreda, being perfectly convinced that peace and harmony would never reign in Ireland until tithes and church-cess were totally abolished; and it appeared evident to me that nothing short of their total abolition would satisfy the people. Under this impression I continued, year after year, to get up petitions, until at length the tithe proctor was dismissed, the tithe system modified, tithes reduced, and church-cess wholly and solely abolished!" The petition to the House of Lords was to be presented by the late Marquis of Downshire. His lordship, however, declined to do so, although he had

promised. At the instance and particular request of several of the most respectable gentlemen in the county of Down, who had signed the petition, and evinced much anxiety respecting it, I wrote several letters to the Marquis of Downshire respecting the petition, but as his lordship did not deign to reply to any of my letters, it was concluded that his lordship had cushioned it. In despite of all the opposition I had met with, I continued every session to get up petitions, which I forwarded to Mr. Ruthven, Mr. McCance, Mr. Sharman Crawford, Mr. Henry Grattan, Mr. Hume, and your worthy self, respectively; and, if I mistake not, it was owing to the representations you made, on presenting the petition from Knockbreda, against church-cess, that you had the good fortune to prevail upon the Minister to promise that he would either modify or totally abolish that odious impost altogether."

He soon felt the consequences of his zeal. When Mr. Berwick's lease expired, not only was the rent on the land raised most enormously, but a rent was imposed on the dwelling-house itself, contrary to all former precedent, in that part of the country. The total increase was from £58 16s. per annum to £174 0s. 2d., very nearly three times the former amount. Mr. Berwick found, that he would be unable to retain possession of the farm at so high a rent, and was, in consequence, obliged to dispose of his interest for a sum of 300 guineas, thus sustaining a loss of £1,485. It is said, that immediately after his parting with the farm, the rent was again reduced from £174 0s. 2d. to £100 per annum, at which rent the new tenant was permitted to enjoy the fruits of Mr. Berwick's expenditure. If there should be anything incorrect in this statement, it is capable of immediate contradiction. It appears to us, the simple questions are—did Mr. Berwick pay £1,000 for the purchase of the good-will? Did he expend any, and what further sums in improvement of a lasting character, upon the property? Was his rent increased in the manner above stated, and was that increased rent the value of the land in the state or condition it was in when Mr. Berwick's predecessor (for whose expenditure thereon he paid £1,000) entered into possession, or was it the rack-rent value without making any allowance whatsoever for improvements? If the latter, it appears to us that Mr. Berwick has been treated in a most unjust and inequitable manner, and that he is fairly entitled to some compensation for the losses he has sustained.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—The first of the winter course of lectures on the State-church controversy was delivered on Wednesday last, in Devonshire-square Chapel, by Mr. Charles Stovel, Baptist minister. After a short prayer by Mr. Howard Hinton, M.A., the minister of the place, who occupied the chair for some time, Mr. Stovel addressed the meeting. The subject of the lecture was "The Voluntary and Compulsory systems contrasted as to their results." In his introductory remarks, Mr. Stovel stated concisely the particular object proposed by the organisation for which he then pleaded, and referred to the misapprehensions with respect to it which may have possibly prevented many from identifying themselves with the Society. With the view of presenting the contrast fully, he adverted to the circumstances which have been invariably the originating and associated causes of Church and State alliances. These were two: on the Church's part, a promulgation of false doctrine, or the assumption of undue power; neither of which being capable of argumentative defence, required the aid of physical force; and on the part of the State, the hope of deepening its influence and extending its dominion by rendering the Church subservient to its designs. These points the lecturer illustrated at considerable length, blending argument with history, establishing his premises by precedents, and carrying his audience with him, insensibly, to the conclusion, that State supremacy and spiritual despotism have been the real objects contemplated in uniting the civil and ecclesiastical powers. In the light of these facts he compared the two systems, in respect to capability of extension—influence in the formation of religious and moral character, whether lay or ministerial—adaptation of their institutions and doctrines to the varying spiritual wants of man, and several other points, unnecessary to be enumerated in this brief sketch. The entire lecture displayed great power of reasoning and historical research, and was throughout pervaded by a tone of earnest piety which must have left a most salutary impression. Some passages were eloquent. Considering the wetness of the evening the lecture was well attended, and listened to with marked attention, by a most respectable audience, who repeatedly manifested their approbation by hearty applause. The lecture took about an hour and a half in delivery.

GEDDINGTON.—On Tuesday, the 15th of December, a meeting on behalf of the Anti-state-church Society was held in this village. Addresses bearing on the connexion of Church and State, were delivered by Messrs. Taylor, Townsend, Jenkinson, and Robinson; and at the close of the meeting, a number of tracts were circulated. Between forty and fifty persons were present.—*Northampton Citizen*.

CHURCH-RATES AT NORWICH.—The parish of St. George's, Colegate, Norwich, is, as most of our readers will recollect, somewhat notorious for its opposition to Church-rates, which have been again and again refused by overwhelming majorities of the parishioners. The churchwardens have become heartily sick of the attempt to carry a rate. This does not, however, satisfy Archdeacon Collyer, who seems determined to worry the vestry until a rate is laid. Several times of late he has given directions for holding vestry-meetings, which have been utterly useless. At the last meeting the parishioners unanimously resolved to adjourn the question for twelve months. Nevertheless, the Archdeacon, at the expiration of only two months, insisted on another meeting. Whereupon the vestry unanimously adopted

a resolution requesting Mr. F. Pigg to write to this worrying ecclesiastic, asking him to prevent further agitation on the subject. We have been kindly furnished with a copy of both the letter and the answer, but, for want of room, are unable to insert them. Mr. Pigg explains all the circumstances of the case, and the strong objections of the parishioners, chiefly on the ground of principle, to grant or pay a rate, and mentions that the repairs required to be done to the church might, according to the churchwarden's estimate, be done for the paltry sum of three guineas! For ten or twelve years the parishioners have steadfastly refused a rate. At a vestry meeting, on Tuesday, the correspondence on the subject was read. Archdeacon Collyer's answer was an enigma to all present. He trusts they will arrive at the conclusion that he can only have been actuated in the matter from a principle of duty, and talks about his aversion to "the bitterness of controversy" and "the violence of partisanship." A vote of thanks to Mr. Pigg was unanimously adopted, for the way in which he had brought the subject before the Archdeacon, and a hope expressed that the parish would in future be saved the trouble of being periodically called together with the hopeless design of inducing them to pass a rate. This systematic annoyance for ten or twelve years is about as disgusting a piece of priestly intolerance as we ever heard of.

A TITHE-DEFAULTER IN PRISON.—We have just heard of a most heart-rending case of a highly respectable tradesman, of domestic habits, having an amiable wife, and a family of affectionate children, who has resided in the Minories and paid rent and taxes for nearly twenty years, being incarcerated, by a tithe-process (issuing, most probably, from Chancery), in Whitecross-street prison, at the suit of the lay impropriator. Landlords are satisfied by entering upon the premises for arrears of rent; and even the Queen is content, in like manner, to obtain the national taxes; and must the default of a few pounds or shillings of ecclesiastical dues or claims cost the defaulter his personal liberty, or occasion irretrievable ruin to himself and family?—*Patriot of Thursday*.

DISSENT IN THE METROPOLIS.—The *Congregational Calendar* for 1847, a valuable publication, abounding in statistical information interesting to Nonconformists, contains some interesting facts relative to the state of Dissent in the metropolis. The following, for example, are the numbers of chapels belonging to the various denominations:—Congregationalists, or Independents, 137; Baptists, 74; Wesleyan Methodists, 34; Scotch Presbyterians, of various kinds, 17; total, 262. The Congregational form of church government predominates in London, as it does, indeed, in all the principal towns in England.

A GOOD RESOLUTION—IF ADHERED TO.—At a meeting of the Manchester Tradesmen's and Operative Association, on Thursday last, Mr. Canon Stowell, who presided, "expressed his decided opposition to the endowment of the Romish priests, and he trusted that, if such a measure should be passed, the Churches of England and Ireland would not consent to sit down as fellow-churches with the Roman Church, but that they would declare that they would rather eat the bread which they toiled for, as the fishermen of Galilee did when they preached the gospel, than consent to sit down as a sister establishment with an anti-Christian church."

OUR POOR OLD CONSTITUTION.—The British constitution has deviated from the old paths—she has become unchristian—is becoming daily more democratic, and hourly more superstitious. These are the signs of the times, and the providence of God is yet afflicting his people with dearth and famine to bring them to the old paths again.—*Church and State Gazette*.

THE SEE OF ST. ASAPH AN AUGEAN STABLE.—From what we know of Bishop Short, we think there is a very great probability that, under him, the Augean stable of Church abuse within the diocese of St. Asaph is in a fair way for being, if not wholly cleansed, yet, at least, in a considerable degree purified. Nor, indeed, will this purification take place an hour too soon. For a hundred years back, bishop after bishop of St. Asaph has successively so increased the amount of abuse, in the disposal of his patronage—that patronage being chiefly reserved for his own relatives—that it is difficult to know where the cleansing ought now to begin. We ourselves know the case of one Bishop of St. Asaph's son—motives of delicacy alone make us conceal the name—who, by his father's act, is a vicar, a rector, and a prebendary, to the united extent of from £1,500 to £1,800 per annum, and who has not been resident, either in the diocese or in England itself, for a period of forty years! And from year to year, throughout that long space of time, have the bishop of the diocese and the archbishop of the province been in the habit of renewing annually the clergyman's "license of non-residence." Shame upon such a state of things!—*Church of England Journal*.

SIGNAL DEFEAT OF A CHURCH-RATE.—On Friday, the 18th inst., a vestry-meeting was held at Stanhope. A proposition was made to lay a church-rate of 1d. in the pound, when an amendment was carried, adjourning the consideration of the subject for twelve months, by a majority of about 140 votes, there being only seven in favour of the rate!—*Gateshead Observer*.

ANOTHER LEGAL ROBBERY.—On Monday, Dec. 28th, a policeman, Mr. Samuel Weller, of Tavistock-street, Covent-garden, a broker, and the collector, visited Mr. Cribb, a baker, of Bedford-court, Covent-garden, from the Poor Man's Church, and carried away a clock for four shillings church-rate, the original cost of which was thirty-five. The rate, we are informed, is illegal, being made for retrospective purposes; viz., to pay a debt incurred in 1842 in direct defiance of the parishioners; only one hand, in that year (exclusive of the mover and seconder), being held up for the rate. As Mr. Cribb is a poor man, we hope that some of our nonconformist friends will assist him in getting redress for the grievance.

Government have appointed an experienced engineer to visit South Staffordshire, and recommend means best adapted to prevent the loss of life in mines.

nothing at rest in our times in this world [laughter]. No one ever thinks of looking for rest from banking—one gets on and other is started. No sooner does that one succeed than a third is begun, and so on. It is the same with machinery. It is so with railroads. Railroads are laid down throughout the kingdom in our day, and they are proceeding at a most amazing degree. If they go on as they are doing, you will soon be able to whirl round the world in a few weeks [laughter]. People seem to be delighting in activity, and if in everything we find activity so wonderfully displayed, shall we hesitate in the greatest of all works, the work of God—shall we hesitate to give our powers to the work for which they were intended—shall we for a moment shrink from duty, however much the labour may be? What is it that stands in our way? Is there any obstacle to the extension of the gospel which we can remove? What has promoted the extension of religion throughout the world? Was it not the handing of the liberties of the church over to the bondage of the state? Can we for a moment suppose, if the state had had nothing to do with the reforms which sprang from Luther and Calvin, that Europe would have been in the state in which it is now? We find at present the whole of Europe in the hands of the state in matters of religion. Can we, therefore, hope for success without a struggle? Send a missionary into France, and if he have not a Government order he cannot preach. Send him to Prussia, and the case is the same. Send him anywhere you please on the continent, and the state tells him he must not preach. Some may tell us that Europe is not so badly off as this, for in France all parties are paid by the state, and none are forbidden to teach or preach. The state of France is much misunderstood. In France no party is paid by the state without the state possessing a veto upon the election of any minister, and the introduction of any books into the schools. If you look to France you will find everything in connexion with religion so centralised that the sovereign exercises his power over all. He will give salaries, but he must have services for them. There is a leaning to centralisation stealing in among our own statesmen, and they appear to be willing to pay everybody in order that they may control everybody; so that you are in full march to the very position of religion and education in France [cheers]. Statesmen have whispered this among themselves, for they whisper—they are cunning men [laughter], and, in the exercise of their cunning, they carry things their own way before the victims of their state-craft be aware. You find them ready to endow Episcopacy in England, Presbyterianism in Scotland, and the Church of England in Ireland, and now you find them ready to endow Roman Catholicism in Ireland also. Now they think they can make some grand attempt on the Church of Rome in Ireland, by endowing her. Out of what do you think? Out of the public money [cheers]. When Government gives money and government grants, people think they are very generous [laughter]. People forget that it is our money [laughter]. Government get the money—they get good salaries—they are the getters and not the givers, and we are the givers [laughter]. We think we are getting something through them, whereas the fact is they get and we give [laughter]. Besides, not being satisfied with their own salaries out of your purses, they are going to give salaries to the Roman Catholic priests in Ireland [cheers and laughter]. Let me remind you that if they are going to pay money, they must pay it out of the Protestant money of England and Scotland. There are no government taxes in Ireland. We have income tax, window tax, house tax, &c. They have none of these. They pay none of the taxes that go directly to Government. Under these circumstances, if the priests are to be paid out of the taxes, out of your own pockets must come the money. You may say, We don't believe they will endow the Roman Catholics—no ministry will attempt such a thing. Why, this was held with regard to the endowment of Maynooth. They did it in spite of you. There was no great agitation made after they threw out the hint, and they went on and completed the job. They have hinted in both houses of Parliament, that it would be a desirable thing to endow Popery in Ireland. What did Lord Howick say in the House of Lords? That he would like to see Roman Catholic bishops going into the House of Lords and legislating. We have enough of bishop legislation [cheers]. We want them to go out of that house, mind their own business, and not meddle with politics. For we find that they tell us not to meddle with politics [cheers]. They will watch you and see whether you will go on agitating. They will see whether you will take it quietly, or with a little under-ground grumbling. You may say that they will lose their power, but who will take the power? Will they attend, it may be asked, to any of our agitation? Ireland furnishes a striking example of the power of agitation. It was by agitation that she obtained Catholic emancipation, as well as other things. When we see agitation work so well in one part of the kingdom, why not try it in all? It is just this agitation we wish you to try, in order to avoid the burden of the endowment of Popery. We are, however, not only against the endowment of Popery, but we are against every endowment. I warn you, as I warned others, against going on the ground that Popery is to be endowed. If you do this, the Government will say you are bigoted. You could never succeed on that ground. But tell them that we wish the Church and State to be separated—that we refuse endowments ourselves, and we would refuse them, also, to others. They can understand this. They will say, These people are consistent. If they will give nothing, they will take nothing. Take that ground and keep it, and go on and agitate until you have succeeded on that ground. If you go on with the cry of "No Popery," you will be defeated. We ask to do away with all endowments in order to begin a movement that may go on throughout the world, until the religion of Christ be known everywhere in its purity. We ask that all the churches may be Free Churches. I am sure our brethren of the Free Church would have no objection to this [laughter]. What we want the Government to do is to mind its own business—that of protecting the lives and liberties of the subject. The moment they go further than this, they have left their own proper province. They might tell you what furniture you are to have, as well as give you a religion. They might tell you what clothes you were to wear, and what food you were to eat, as well as tell you how to worship. I would rather they should tell me what furniture I was to have in my house than what ideas I was to have in my head [cheers and laughter]. They tell in England what sort of prayer-books I am to have. They tell me what to pray, every word of it, no more and no less. They go further than this. They appoint bishops over me. These bishops are appointed by the Queen. A letter is sent, stating that the people are to choose a good man. The name of the man is Jones, and they are to choose that man and no other [laughter]. Now, if we find such a state of things, is it not right that we should tell the Governments of the world that they have turned religion into a farce—a terrible farce? Some people say, You should not meddle with politics. When we meddle with politics in this case, we meddle with them in order to get rid of them. The Establishment people, who tell us not to meddle with politics, forget that their church is governed by politics. They tell us not to meddle with politics—they want them all to themselves [great cheering]. The British Anti-state-church Association has been formed for the pur-

pose of aiding on the great work; and let me remind you that it is not an English nor a London Association—it is a British Association. You should enter your names as members of it, and contribute to its funds to enable it to work.

After a few farther remarks, the reverend gentleman resumed his seat amidst much applause.

EDWARD MIALI, Esq., then came forward, and said:—

Mr. Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen.—I, equally as others, am indisposed naturally to the inconveniences and self-sacrifices imposed on us by a work of agitation; but I, equally with my friend Mr. Burnet, approve of agitation & the diffusion of truth of any kind, as beneficial to society rather than injurious. Every age agitates for the age to come after it, and if we could conceive of a state of society in which there was no vigorous circulation of practical ideas, there would be a stagnation which would almost inevitably tend to social impurity. We have had truth committed to us by the Great Guardian of truth, not for our own sakes, but that we might diffuse it. We are placed in a position in this world purposely adapted, by his infinite wisdom and providence, to exercise all our mental and moral faculties. There can be no real enjoyment, of either a moral or spiritual kind, without activity and agitation, any more than there can be bodily health without daily exercise. It is also of some importance that we should learn, as we pass through life, to calculate upon difficulties. But why should we not go forth to meet them? The difficulty is but the measure of the vigour which we ought to put forth in order to overcome it. We are appointed to struggle with difficulties. Let us never be afraid to spend our whole life in endeavouring to communicate good to others. I know that it will be felt by the Scottish people that for a deputation to come all the way from London to communicate knowledge on this question, is very much like carrying coals to Newcastle [laughter]. I have heard, and believe, that the Dissenters north of the Tweed are thoroughly instructed in this question. Permit me, as an Englishman, somewhat jealous of my country too, to suggest, that although you may be well instructed on the proper connexion between the premises and the conclusion, that it is just possible for you to have some very powerful illustrations of the evils arising from the connexion between Church and State, drawn from the south. After all, it is not sufficient for us simply to hold the principle. It appears to me that the voluntary principle in Scotland is held as a doctrine. Very frequently, when we have been going from one place to another, it has been put to us as a great difficulty, that there is at present no practical object before us. The matter is regarded as an entire abstraction. The subject is looked upon as merely theoretical. The discussion of it will be set down as a discussion which can tend to no immediate practical conclusion. The State-church itself is a mere matter of theory. In practice it is constantly at work, and the evil it produces is really oppressing, and affects not merely the civil liberties, but the spiritual privileges of men. It goes into every village in the empire, interferes with the spiritual liberty of the subject, and so interferes as to send millions of immortal souls deluded into eternity respecting their eternal state. Is not this a practical evil, and does the attempt to remove this evil and practical abuse, not call for the firm, serious, prayerful, and persevering efforts of every enlightened Christian? Can we say, when we are moving against this mass of corruption, that we have no practical matter before us? When Carey went forth to instruct the heathens of Hindostan, had he before him a more practical object than we have at present? When the Reformers went forward at the period of the Revolution, had they before them a more practical object than we have? I call upon you to join us in effecting a practical object—to aid in putting down State-churches in all the forms which they assume in our empire. I call on you not merely to act on the defensive, but I call on you, out of love to your own principles, with a view to put down a constant, perpetually increasing evil [cheers]. I call on you now to agitate for the deliverance of the church of Christ from that thralldom and those fetters in which she is now bound [loud cheering]. Just consider the position in which Great Britain has been placed by State-churches. Here is the remedy for the moral darkness and disease of man—the light of truth which was to enlighten all nations, under the guidance and superintendence of Him who sits upon the throne. Here is this beautiful system, reflecting all the harmony and all the perfections of the Godhead, and intended to effect the moral and spiritual reformation of mankind, actually seized on by the Government of this country, and debased into a tool for working out their own selfish purposes [cheers]. And we who know that Christianity is thus interred with—her beauty marred, her powers spoiled, and feel that the thousands and tens of thousands who come within the range of her power are deprived of their proper instruction—we who know and feel all this, say that we have no practical object worthy of our pursuit at present. I cannot understand how men holding our principles can, out of deference to any authority whatever, place in abeyance the discussion of these principles. I do great honour to the courtesy with which you have been characterised towards your Free Church friends. I think your kindness has been rather too forbearing; and, in fact, that some advantage has been taken of it. There is, I fear, some evil likely to occur in consequence of your not having kindly, with tenderness and forbearance, but with firmness of mind, presented this principle to the minds of your friends. They had just come out from a state of slavery. They felt somewhat of the state of freshness of feeling which people feel when they pass from bondage into liberty. It may be that, in the height of their zeal, they would have been indisposed to listen to you; but have you not permitted them to settle down into a church without informing them decisively respecting the absolute importance of this principle? Have you not, by fraternising with them, and not mentioning the principle at the same time, led them in some measure to look upon it as more theoretical than practical after all? I think you will agree with me that your courtesy has been carried on quite long enough. It is time for you to arise and go forth for the maintenance of this principle. I may just inform you that, although I have not the smallest doubt that the effect of your cautiousness may have been to conciliate your Free Church friends, it has had bad effects on your southern friends. They point to Scotland, and say that you have felt the bad effects of agitation, and that it interfered with your spirituality. Let bygones be bygones, and let us act for the future. We want to have one combined, united, energetic movement, not merely to prevent the further extension of the principle of establishments in the endowment of Popery in Ireland, but to overthrow all existing establishments. We wish to enlighten the mind of the public, so that it may be rendered impossible to sustain the existing establishments, when their position may be ended in question. We wish to wage this warfare, not against particular creeds, but against the mode of maintenance. We wish to throw no discredit on the doctrines of any party whatever. We belong, in this warfare, to no sect, denomination, or class. We unite with all those who wish to put an end to existing establishments of religion. We are exceedingly anxious that there should be a united movement. Mr. M. next proceeded to give some account

of the Anti-state-church Association, which was formed, he said, at a conference of the Dissenting body, in 1844. It consisted of 630 representatives from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Their sittings occupied three days, and they came to the resolution to agitate for a separation of the Church from the State, and took such means as would protect them against injury from their enemies, and they determined that the Association should resolve into itself every three years. The council consisted of 520 gentlemen belonging to different parts of the country. The affairs of the Association were conducted by an executive committee consisting of fifty members. Hitherto the officers of the Society had given their services gratuitously; but, as the business would now occupy more time, it would be necessary to appoint paid officers.

On sitting down, Mr. M. was warmly applauded. The Rev. Mr. M'DOUGALL then rose, and, in a few observations, proposed a resolution expressive of sympathy in the anti-state-church movement, and also the appointment of a committee for the purpose of co-operating with the British Anti-state-church Association. Agreed to by acclamation.

The following gentlemen were then elected a committee:—viz., the Rev. William Ramage, Rev. Mr. Weir, and Messrs. Andrew Aitken, John Watt, Hugh Craig, John M'Kay, Andrew Oliver, William Muir, Nicol Cameron, and Thomas Mack.

The Rev. Mr. KENNEDY then, in a short speech, moved that the cordial thanks of the meeting be given to Messrs. Burnet and Miall for the able addresses they had delivered [great applause].

After a few observations from the CHAIRMAN, Mr. BURNET replied.

The Rev. Mr. M'DOUGALL then pronounced the blessing, and the meeting broke up.

KILMARNOCK.

The deputation from the British Anti-state-church Association—being Edward Miall, Esq., and the Rev. Mr. Burnet—visited Kilmarnock on Wednesday last, in furtherance of the objects of the association, and held a meeting in the Relief Church, at seven o'clock in the evening of that day. The Rev. William Ramage, minister of the church, ably occupied the chair. The meeting was not so numerously attended as the popularity of the gentlemen comprising the deputation, and the importance of the subject to be treated, led us to anticipate. Shortly after the hour of meeting, Mr. Ramage took the chair; and, after alluding to the high talent and distinction of the gentlemen who had been deputed to address them, proceeded publicly to record his opinion—an opinion which he said he believed was well known to the meeting—of his entire concurrence in the views to be promulgated by the deputation representing the Anti-state-church Association. He concluded by introducing Mr. Miall, who was cordially received, and addressed the meeting at some length. In the course of his speech he said:—"We are not against Episcopacy or Independency, but we go upon the principle that all religion should be supported independent of the Government [applause]. It is the liberation of religion from all State thralldom we have in view, and are determined to effect our purpose. We have met with a warm reception in all the towns we have visited. We come now to Kilmarnock. It will not do for us to state that Kilmarnock was the only place which did not sympathise with us. I think I see the struggle with which Kilmarnock contended for the voluntary principle some ten or twelve years ago, and I hope you will not now fail to unite, heart in heart, and hand in hand, with your brethren in the south, with the same energy you threw into the matter when it was formerly advocated among you. Mr. Burnet urged for some time the necessity of Scotsmen lending their support to the Anti-state-church Association with the view, in the first place, of preventing the grant to Irish Catholics, and mainly to bring about the separation of the State from all religious interference or endowments. Our limits prevent our giving at greater length the conclusion of his address. He was listened to throughout with the utmost attention. The Rev. Mr. Ramage, after a few remarks, proposed that the thanks of the meeting be given to the deputation. The motion was cordially responded to. Mr. Andrew Oliver then moved that a committee be appointed to carry out the views of the association. The motion was seconded by Mr. Muir, bookseller, and agreed to.—*Abridged from the Kilmarnock Herald.*

THE BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—The deputation which has just visited our city, has done much to show Dissenters and Churchmen too, that the only possible way of opposing Government, is to take the ground of a universal Voluntaryism—to seek no favour from the Government, and to refuse to grant favours to others. We are quite satisfied that many Churchmen feel the difficulty of their present position, and, indeed, have declared their preference of withdrawing all endowments to endowing Roman Catholicism. We are as much opposed to the errors of Popery as any can be, but we see no reason why Catholics should be taxed to support Protestantism, while Protestantism refuses to be taxed to support Catholicism. Let us do to others as we wish them to do for us; but let no man's conscience or purse be made to support what it is opposed to on religious grounds. We are happy to learn that the public have appreciated the visit of Messrs. Burnet and Miall. Both these gentlemen have been most cordially received, and their merits are spoken of by all classes with unmingled satisfaction.—*Glasgow Examiner.*

CHURCH-RATES.—MAIDSTONE.

On Thursday week, a vestry meeting was held at ten o'clock, in All Saints' Church, Maidstone, for the making of a new church-rate. An adjournment took place to the western end of the church. The Rev. W. Vallance, perpetual curate, presided. The Earl of Romney attended (we believe for the first time at any church-rate meeting), also Capt. Scott, several of the Established clergy, and most of the heads of the Church party.

Mr. F. SCUDAMORE, minister's churchwarden, read an estimate of repairs required, amounting to £738 18s.,

and moved a rate of threepence in the pound, which was seconded by Mr. C. Arceoli, the parochial churchwarden. Mr. Dobney, Baptist minister, in an eloquent speech, argued against all compulsory measures for the support of religion. He concluded as follows:—

When, in addition to all this, I remember what it is that we are compelled to support under the abused name of Christianity, I feel still more deeply moved to avail myself of every proper opportunity of lifting up my voice in earnest protest against it. For what is it, gentlemen, that we are taxed for? What is the nature of those services which our money is taken from us to sustain? I feel bound to affirm, and am ready to maintain anywhere, that, from the priestly assertion at the font, that a certain ceremony makes the unconscious babe a child of God (and which, though an untruth, is sedulously taught the young in your "Church Catechism"), to the last solemn declaration, over all characters indiscriminately, that they are buried "in sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection," I say, from the first assertion at the font, to the last over all that are interred in what you call consecrated ground, there is a terrible perversion and disfigurement of Christianity, and an awful delusion, systematically maintained. Plainly, this is not the Christianity of the New Testament; and I, for one, at all risks, refuse to assist in keeping up a system which renders Christ's holy and beautiful religion odious in the eyes of many, while, in numerous ways, it does most serious injury to the understandings of men, and, in too many cases, fearfully perils their highest interest [cheers].

Mr. NELMS felt, as a Protestant Unitarian Dissenter, aggrieved at being compelled against his will to pay towards the support of a mode of worship which he highly disapproved of, and in his conscience rejected.

Mr. WHITING, editor of the *Gazette*, contended, that the refusal to put an amendment, fairly worded, bearing strictly upon the question at issue, and duly moved and seconded, was a most unwarrantable encroachment on the free expression of the opinions of the parishioners [hear, hear]. He said—

I see, standing amongst you, a noble peer of the realm, whose word of honour is, by our constitution, tantamount to an oath; I see a gentleman connected with the army, to whom honour is dearer than life; I see before me men who are incapable of an unworthy act in any other relation of life. How can you reconcile this chivalrous sense of honour, this self-devotion to the calls of high principle, this steady adherence to commercial integrity, with the meanness of coming down here to take away the money of the poor Dissenters to pay the cost of your religion [cheers].

A PARISHIONER moved, as an amendment, that "all previous rates be collected before another rate should be made;" and, with another parishioner, who seconded the amendment, complained that some parishioners were called on to pay, year after year, whilst those, who positively refused to pay the rate, were never troubled at all.

Mr. DOBNEY said that he could not vote for any amendment which authorised a distraint for church-rates. He had not paid a rate for several years, and never meant to pay another [cheers]; and he felt bound to say that he believed that the churchwardens had not distrained on those who had objected to pay, more from kindness and courtesy, than any other consideration. Indeed, he had always, with one exception, received from them the greatest courtesy, although he never meant to pay.

Mr. A. RANDALL said, that the amendment was a very fair one, but thought that it had better be withdrawn; and, looking at the character of their present churchwardens, that the matter had better be left in their hands. The discussion on it had, no doubt, done good.

Mr. T. PINE objected to the distraining upon anybody. He had reluctantly paid the rate, and he certainly would not sanction its exaction from any person who conscientiously objected to pay it.

The amendment, which was viewed more in the light of an authority to the churchwardens to distrain, than a denunciation of the rate, was then put to the meeting; but was supported by very few persons, and was, consequently, lost.

The original motion was then put, and, on a division, there appeared:—For the rate, 78; against it, 75; majority for the rate, 3.—Abridged from the *Maidstone Gazette*.

RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE IN IRELAND.

A case of great hardship and persecution, affording, too, a striking example of the insecurity of the tenant against the tyranny of the landlord, has been brought under our notice in a pamphlet, consisting of a letter to Mr. O'Connell, entitled "Landlord Oppression Exemplified." Although it is some time since the circumstance took place, it is still fresh in the recollection of the inhabitants of the district, and, it is said, has deterred many from the free expression of any political opinion opposed to that of their landlord. The case to which we allude is that of Mr. William Berwick, formerly of Lincabreen-house, in the county of Down. It appears that this gentleman purchased a farm, held under the Marquis of Downshire, subject to the yearly rent of £58 16s., for the good-will of which he paid the sum of £1,000, and on which he expended a further sum of £800 in permanent and lasting improvements. In the course of the ten years during which he remained in occupation, Mr. Berwick asserts that he incurred the anger of the late marquis for the active part which he took in getting up and forwarding petitions to Parliament, for the total abolition of tithes and church-cess. "Whatever the consequences might be," says Mr. Berwick, in his pamphlet, "I was firmly determined, at all hazards, to use my utmost exertions in promoting petitions for the total abolition of tithes and church-cess; and I sincerely hoped that every parish in the kingdom would follow the example set by Knockbreba, being perfectly convinced that peace and harmony would never reign in Ireland until tithes and church-cess were totally abolished; and it appeared evident to me that nothing short of their total abolition would satisfy the people." Under this impression I continued, year after year, to get up petitions, until at length the tithe proctor was dismissed, the tithe system modified, tithes reduced, and church-cess wholly and solely abolished! The petition to the House of Lords was to be presented by the late Marquis of Downshire. His lordship, however, declined to do so, although he had

promised. At the instance and particular request of several of the most respectable gentlemen in the county of Down, who had signed the petition, and evinced much anxiety respecting it, I wrote several letters to the Marquis of Downshire respecting the petition, but as his lordship did not deign to reply to any of my letters, it was concluded that his lordship had cushioned it. In despite of all the opposition I had met with, I continued every session to get up petitions, which I forwarded to Mr. Ruthven, Mr. McCance, Mr. Sharman Crawford, Mr. Henry Grattan, Mr. Hume, and your worthy self, respectively; and, if I mistake not, it was owing to the representations you made, on presenting the petition from Knockbreba, against church-cess, that you had the good fortune to prevail upon the Minister to promise that he would either modify or totally abolish that odious impost altogether.

He soon felt the consequences of his zeal. When Mr. Berwick's lease expired, not only was the rent on the land raised most enormously, but a rent was imposed on the dwelling-house itself, contrary to all former precedent, in that part of the country. The total increase was from £58 16s. per annum to £174 0s. 2d., very nearly three times the former amount. Mr. Berwick found, that he would be unable to retain possession of the farm at so high a rent, and was, in consequence, obliged to dispose of his interest for a sum of 300 guineas, thus sustaining a loss of £1,485. It is said, that immediately after his parting with the farm, the rent was again reduced from £174 0s. 2d. to £100 per annum, at which rent the new tenant was permitted to enjoy the fruits of Mr. Berwick's expenditure. If there should be anything incorrect in this statement, it is capable of immediate contradiction. It appears to us, the simple questions are—did Mr. Berwick pay £1,000 for the purchase of the good-will? Did he expend any, and what further sums in improvement of a lasting character, upon the property? Was his rent increased in the manner above stated, and was that increased rent the value of the land in the state or condition it was in when Mr. Berwick's predecessor (for whose expenditure thereon he paid £1,000) entered into possession, or was it the rack-rent value without making any allowance whatsoever for improvements? If the latter, it appears to us that Mr. Berwick has been treated in a most unjust and inequitable manner, and that he is fairly entitled to some compensation for the losses he has sustained.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—The first of the winter course of lectures on the State-church controversy was delivered on Wednesday last, in Devonshire-square Chapel, by Mr. Charles Stovel, Baptist minister. After a short prayer by Mr. Howard Hinton, M.A., the minister of the place, who occupied the chair for some time, Mr. Stovel addressed the meeting. The subject of the lecture was "The Voluntary and Compulsory systems contrasted as to their results." In his introductory remarks, Mr. Stovel stated concisely the particular object proposed by the organisation for which he then pleaded, and referred to the misapprehensions with respect to it which may have possibly prevented many from identifying themselves with the Society. With the view of presenting the contrast fully, he adverted to the circumstances which have been invariably the originating and associated causes of Church and State alliances. These were two: on the Church's part, a promulgation of false doctrine, or the assumption of undue power; neither of which being capable of argumentative defence, required the aid of physical force; and on the part of the State, the hope of deepening its influence and extending its dominion by rendering the Church subservient to its designs. These points the lecturer illustrated at considerable length, blending argument with history, establishing his premises by precedents, and carrying his audience with him, insensibly, to the conclusion, that State supremacy and spiritual despotism have been the real objects contemplated in uniting the civil and ecclesiastical powers. In the light of these facts he compared the two systems, in respect to capability of extension—influence in the formation of religious and moral character, whether lay or ministerial—adaptation of their institutions and doctrines to the varying spiritual wants of man, and several other points, unnecessary to be enumerated in this brief sketch. The entire lecture displayed great power of reasoning and historical research, and was throughout pervaded by a tone of earnest piety which must have left a most salutary impression. Some passages were eloquent. Considering the wetness of the evening the lecture was well attended, and listened to with marked attention, by a most respectable audience, who repeatedly manifested their approbation by hearty applause. The lecture took about an hour and a half in delivery.

GEDDINGTON.—On Tuesday, the 15th of December, a meeting on behalf of the Anti-state-church Society was held in this village. Addresses bearing on the connexion of Church and State, were delivered by Messrs. Taylor, Townsend, Jenkinson, and Robinson; and at the close of the meeting, a number of tracts were circulated. Between forty and fifty persons were present.—*Northampton Citizen*.

CHURCH-RATES AT NORWICH.—The parish of St. George's, Colegate, Norwich, is, as most of our readers will recollect, somewhat notorious for its opposition to Church-rates, which have been again and again refused by overwhelming majorities of the parishioners. The churchwardens have become heartily sick of the attempt to carry a rate. This does not, however, satisfy Archdeacon Collyer, who seems determined to worry the vestry until a rate is laid. Several times of late he has given directions for holding vestry-meetings, which have been utterly useless. At the last meeting the parishioners unanimously resolved to adjourn the question for twelve months. Nevertheless, the Archdeacon, at the expiration of only two months, insisted on another meeting. Whereupon the vestry unanimously adopted

a resolution requesting Mr. F. Pigg to write to this worrying ecclesiastic, asking him to prevent further agitation on the subject. We have been kindly furnished with a copy of both the letter and the answer, but, for want of room, are unable to insert them. Mr. Pigg explains all the circumstances of the case, and the strong objections of the parishioners, chiefly on the ground of principle, to grant or pay a rate, and mentions that the repairs required to be done to the church might, according to the churchwarden's estimate, be done for the paltry sum of three guineas! For ten or twelve years the parishioners have steadfastly refused a rate. At a vestry meeting, on Tuesday, the correspondence on the subject was read. Archdeacon Collyer's answer was an enigma to all present. He trusts they will arrive at the conclusion that he can only have been actuated in the matter from a principle of duty, and talks about his aversion to "the bitterness of controversy" and "the violence of partisanship." A vote of thanks to Mr. Pigg was unanimously adopted, for the way in which he had brought the subject before the Archdeacon, and a hope expressed that the parish would in future be saved the trouble of being periodically called together with the hopeless design of inducing them to pass a rate. This systematic annoyance for ten or twelve years is about as disgusting a piece of priestly intolerance as we ever heard of.

A TITHE-DEFAULTER IN PRISON.—We have just heard of a most heart-rending case of a highly respectable tradesman, of domestic habits, having an amiable wife, and a family of affectionate children, who has resided in the Minorities and paid rent and taxes for nearly twenty years, being incarcerated, by a tithe-process (issuing, most probably, from Chancery), in Whitecross-street prison, at the suit of the lay impropriator. Landlords are satisfied by entering upon the premises for arrears of rent; and even the Queen is content, in like manner, to obtain the national taxes; and must the default of a few pounds or shillings of ecclesiastical dues or claims cost the defaulter his personal liberty, or occasion irretrievable ruin to himself and family?—*Patriot of Thursday*.

DISSENT IN THE METROPOLIS.—The *Congregational Calendar* for 1847, a valuable publication, abounding in statistical information interesting to Nonconformists, contains some interesting facts relative to the state of Dissent in the metropolis. The following, for example, are the numbers of chapels belonging to the various denominations:—Congregationalists, or Independents, 137; Baptists, 74; Wesleyan Methodists, 34; Scotch Presbyterians, of various kinds, 17; total, 262. The Congregational form of church government predominates in London, as it does, indeed, in all the principal towns in England.

A GOOD RESOLUTION—IF ADHERED TO.—At a meeting of the Manchester Tradesmen's and Operative Association, on Thursday last, Mr. Canon Stowell, who presided, "expressed his decided opposition to the endowment of the Romish priests, and he trusted that, if such a measure should be passed, the Churches of England and Ireland would not consent to sit down as fellow-churches with the Roman Church, but that they would declare that they would rather eat the bread which they toiled for, as the fishermen of Galilee did when they preached the gospel, than consent to sit down as a sister establishment with an anti-Christian church."

OUR POOR OLD CONSTITUTION.—The British constitution has deviated from the old path—she has become *unchristian*—is becoming daily more *democratic*, and hourly more *superstitious*. These are the signs of the times, and the providence of God is yet afflicting his people with dearth and famine to bring them to the old path again.—*Church and State Gazette*.

THE SEE OF ST. ASAPH AN AUGEAN STABLE.—From what we know of Bishop Short, we think there is a very great probability that, under him, the Augean stable of Church abuse within the diocese of St. Asaph is in a fair way for being, if not wholly cleansed, yet, at least, in a considerable degree purified. Nor, indeed, will this purification take place an hour too soon. For a hundred years back, bishop after bishop of St. Asaph has successively so increased the amount of abuse, in the disposal of his patronage—that patronage being chiefly reserved for his own relatives—that it is difficult to know where the cleansing ought now to begin. We ourselves know the case of one Bishop of St. Asaph's son—motives of delicacy alone make us conceal the name—who, by his father's act, is a vicar, a rector, and a prebendary, to the united extent of from £1,500 to £1,800 per annum, and who has not been resident, either in the diocese or in England itself, for a period of forty years! And from year to year, throughout that long space of time, have the bishop of the diocese and the archbishop of the province been in the habit of renewing annually the clergyman's "license of non-residence." Shame upon such a state of things!—*Church of England Journal*.

SIGNAL DEFEAT OF A CHURCH-RATE.—On Friday, the 18th inst., a vestry-meeting was held at Stanhope. A proposition was made to lay a church-rate of 1d. in the pound, when an amendment was carried, adjourning the consideration of the subject for twelve months, by a majority of about 140 votes, there being only seven in favour of the rate!—*Gateshead Observer*.

ANOTHER LEGAL ROBBERY.—On Monday, Dec. 28th, a policeman, Mr. Samuel Weller, of Tavistock-street, Covent-garden, a broker, and the collector, visited Mr. Cribb, a baker, of Bedford-court, Covent-garden, from the Poor Man's Church, and carried away a clock for four shillings church-rate, the original cost of which was thirty-five. The rate, we are informed, is illegal, being made for retrospective purposes; viz., to pay a debt incurred in 1842 in direct defiance of the parishioners; only one hand, in that year (exclusive of the mover and seconder), being held up for the rate. As Mr. Cribb is a poor man, we hope that some of our nonconformist friends will assist him in getting redress for the grievance.

Government have appointed an experienced engineer to visit South Staffordshire, and recommend means best adapted to prevent the loss of life in mines.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BAPTIST IRISH SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I have been exceedingly gratified with the earnestness of your articles on the distress which prevails in Ireland, and the cordiality with which you have recommended attention to the appeals of the Secretary of the Irish Evangelical Society; and, as I perceived in one of your recent numbers, you presumed other societies connected with Ireland were doing something to help the famishing poor in the districts they occupied, though you were not certain of the fact, I address these few lines to you, and to your readers, just to say that, ever since our annual meeting in April last, when a fund was commenced by the Chairman, J. L. Phillips, Esq., of Melksham, we have been urging the matter on our friends, through our little *Monthly Chronicle*, which is sent out with the magazines; and we have not appealed in vain. Very many churches have made a collection at the Lord's-table, others a congregational collection, and many private individuals have sent donations. In some cases these have been repeated.

A sub-committee has been appointed to receive and consider the applications. The sums voted have been sent to the missionaries in the various parts of the country, to be by them distributed as carefully and judiciously as possible; and they have been instructed to send an account as to whom, and in what amounts, these sums have been given. In some instances night schools have been opened for the winter, and qualified persons employed to teach them. In such cases *useful work* has been done for the money given to these parties.

The ravages of famine are now almost universal. They have penetrated into the north of Ireland. I need not send details. The fact is not now doubted, for scores are dying every week.

Those friends, therefore, who would prefer sending their contributions through the agents of the Baptist Irish Society can either remit them to me, or to the Treasurer, Edward Smith, Esq., 60, Old Broad-street, London.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

FREDERICK TRESTRAIL, Secretary.

Mission-house, Moorgate-street, Dec. 29, 1846.

TAHITI.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—The movement, so general at this moment among the Christians of our country, in behalf of the oppressed natives of Tahiti and the surrounding islands, menaced with a similar fate, must rejoice every friend of humanity, much more every soul that identifies itself with the advancement of the reign of truth, and righteousness, and peace, in the world.

This movement is expressive of that sympathy which should subsist between all the members of that one spiritual body, so that, as the apostle beautifully says, when "one member suffers, all suffer with it," without regard to human distinctions, or the importance of position of that member; but, while the movement, and the sentiment of which it is the expression, gladden the Christian heart, the choice of the agency by which it is proposed to accomplish the end in view inspires a feeling of regret.

The state of these victims of an unjust and unprovoked aggression (of which every one conversant with what is going on in France knows the real object to be the crushing of Protestant missions and extension of Romanism; for the secret mover of the original expedition to Oceania is the "Propaganda de la Foi," acting on the religious zeal of an influential individual nearest to the French throne) loudly calls on us to make every effort for their deliverance. But why go to the Foreign-office? There is something revolting in the idea of Christian missions and our belligerent Foreign Secretary in juxtaposition. Would it not be more characteristic of the object sought—more consonant to the principles of those who seek it—more in harmony with the spirit of the meek and holy Jesus—were the British churches (and let them all come forward to the noble work) to unite in an earnest petition to the French Government to leave in peace the yet unconquered Polynesian isles, and allow the natives of Tahiti to withdraw thither, guaranteed from further molestation?

Besides being more consistent, I am persuaded that such a mode of proceeding would be more likely to succeed than diplomatic interference. An earnest petition from a large proportion of British Christians would command the attention of the French Government, arouse no political jealousies and suspicions, alarm no sensitive feeling of national honour (as it is called), and perhaps obtain its prayer. The most fiery enemy of England could bring nothing forward against the concession on such grounds; and it would be a graceful act, fitted to make the doers popular, even with their own people; but if the matter be put into the hands of state secretaries, made an affair of diplomacy, there is no saying what may be the result;—as you justly observe, in some of your remarks on the subject, "the murder of French and English soldiers may be sanctioned to save the poor Tahitians." When have diplomatists or cabinet ministers ever done anything to deliver oppressed Christianity, or further the progress of its holy principles, unless to subserve political ends? and then it has been by means that no Christian, acting in accordance with his principles, could sanction.

British Christians have much to reproach themselves with in the tardiness of their awakening to make any effort for their poor Tahitian brethren; and it speaks but little for the prevalence of that sympathy between the members of Christ's spiritual body on earth, before alluded to, that some years have elapsed before they thought of moving in this righteous cause; but let them beware of now repairing their past indolence by an impetuosity which may involve consequences far more prejudicial to the progress of the kingdom of righteousness and peace on earth, than the desolating of one field of missionary labour, however promising, and even fruitful.

I am, dear sir, with much esteem, yours,

Leghorn, Dec. 17, 1846. H. G.

THE ROBBERY AT MESSRS. ROGERS AND CO.'S.—One of the bills included in the robbery from the premises of Messrs. Rogers and Co. (and which has since been paid, upon indemnity, to that firm), was, on Wednesday, anonymously transmitted to the acceptors in a post-letter. The letter intimated, that as there was no chance of the business being settled, the writer thought that the bill might as well be given up.

Recent comparisons give the expectation of life at 21 years of age in the three classes of sovereigns, the aristocracy, and the gentry of this country, as 54, 65, and 67½ years respectively; at 51, the expectation is 64, 72, and 74 years.

SUCCESSFUL USE OF VAPOUR OF ETHER.—We have been informed that two operations were performed by Mr. Liston, at the University College Hospital, on Saturday last, while the patients were under the stupefying influence of vapour of ether. The one was amputation of the leg, the other, evulsion of the nail of the great toe. The vapour of ether was inhaled by means of a proper apparatus, and when it had produced its full effect the operation was speedily performed. Neither of the patients knew, when they recovered from their stupor, that the operation had been performed. Mr. Liston observed, that the vapour of ether had been used for a similar purpose in America, but only in minor operations, such as the removal of tumours, &c. We hope to have further particulars on this very interesting subject.—*Medical Times*. Mr. Robinson, surgeon-dentist, of Gower-street, in a letter to the *Morning Chronicle*, details several cases in which he has rendered his patients insensible to pain by this means. We subjoin the following interesting particulars:—

On the 19th, in the presence of Dr. Boott and his family, at his own residence, I operated upon a young person thrown into sleep by the inhalation, and extracted a molar tooth from her lower jaw. The inhalation occupied a minute and a half, and the patient's recovery from sleep another minute. Dr. Boott questioned her respecting the tooth, and she expressed her great surprise at finding that it was removed. She said that all she had felt was merely a sensation of cold around the tooth, a sensation which was caused, perhaps, by the coldness of the extracting instrument. The apparatus employed consisted of the lower part of Nooth's apparatus, with a flexible tube, to which was attached a ball and socket valve and mouthpiece similar to those commonly used for inhalation. I repeated the experiment a few days after on other parties; but, in several cases, little or no effect was produced by the vapour. The fact was that the ball and socket valve, though impervious to water, was not so to air; moreover, as the patient was becoming insensible, and the breathing tranquil and involuntary, he had no longer the power of raising the ball. Hence the breath passed into the vessel and diluted the ether vapour, and only an incomplete insensibility ensued. Instructed by these circumstances, I have had another apparatus made by Mr. Elphick, of Castle-street, Oxford-street. It consists of a mouth-piece, containing two valves, a perpendicular one which permits a perfectly free inhalation, but closes when expiration begins, and opens the other, an horizontal valve, with a perpendicular action at the top. By this means inspiration and expiration are both allowed with the greatest freedom. To the end of this mouth-piece is attached a pad, containing a spring well stuffed and adapted to the external contour of the mouth, also a clip for compressing the nostrils, and thus preventing the patient from drawing in the air, either through the nose or by the corners of the mouth. This apparatus I tried on Saturday last on two patients, from one of whom I removed an upper molar, from the other, a deep-seated stump. My success was complete. Yesterday I again operated at my house, in Dr. Boott's presence, on Mr. Dixon, surgical instrument maker, of Tonbridge-place, New-road.

STATISTICS OF EDUCATION IN DEVON.—Some of our readers will perhaps recollect, that in our report of the proceedings of the Devon Educational Conference, it was for the most part supposed, that only about 20,000, out of 95,580 children who ought to be under daily instruction in that county, were doing so. In a letter to the *Western Times*, Mr. Windeatt, of Totnes, points out several glaring errors in the data on which this calculation is based:—

In the first place, I apprehend, it is now admitted that one in nine (and not one in six) of the population is the proportion which should be in receipt of daily instruction. This is the calculation, I believe, now adopted by Lord Brougham, and Dr. Vaughan, of Manchester, as well as by Mr. Baines, of Leeds. This will reduce the number which should now be in daily schools in this county to 63,722. Since the meeting of the Conference, I have had an opportunity of referring to the abstract, published by the House of Commons, of the returns of education, obtained in 1833, and generally, I believe, known as Lord Kerry's returns, and which returns are, I believe, known to be within the truth.

This return gives the following summary for the county of Devon:—Population in 1831, 494,478; in infant schools, 2,531; in daily schools, 22,410; total children under daily instruction, 54,971.

This is exclusive of Sunday-schools, in which there were 43,342 children under instruction.

These returns were made in 1833, only two years after the census of 1831, and show a number under daily instruction of more than one in nine on the population, according to that census; and even if we deduct the infant schools (though as the ages of the children in those schools range from two to seven years, I do not think that the whole of that number should be excluded) it still gives 52,440 children under daily instruction in 1833, in contrast to the "hardly 20,000 under daily instruction" in 1846.

But will it be contended that daily instruction has decreased in Devon since 1833? I apprehend that the contrary is so notorious that no one would be bold enough to assert that any decrease has taken place.

At least his own experience goes to prove an increase both in the extent and quality of school instruction, and he expresses a confident belief that such a state of things needs only to be encouraged, directed, and, where necessary, aided by the Association formed in Exeter on Wednesday last, in order to give, even to agricultural Devon, a sound, useful, and Christian education, and that too without any Government interference.

METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION FOR IMPROVING THE DWELLINGS OF THE POOR.—The first annual meeting of this association was held on Wednesday, in their rooms in Coleman-street. Mr. John W. Tottle, the deputy chairman, presided. The report presented a favourable account of the operations of the association. A piece of ground has been obtained, nearly opposite Old St. Pancras Church, for erecting suitable buildings for the accommodation of the labouring classes, to combine greatly improved accommodation with diminished rent. The building, it is expected, will be finished within twelve months from the present time. From the financial statement it appeared that £7,963 had been received, and £2,094 expended.

THE WELLINGTON STATUE.—The *Builder* says that the site for the Wellington Statue is still in doubt. The excavation recently made in the space behind the Horse Guards was merely to ascertain the fitness of the soil for supporting the necessary foundation; and other accounts say that owing to the presence of land-springs the site is deemed unfit to receive so enormous a weight.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

THE CIVIL WAR IN PORTUGAL.

Advices have been received from Lisbon to the 20th inst. The capital was tranquil. The Visconde de Setubal had marched, with 600 men, on the insurgents under Senhor José Estevao, who had possession of Setubal, and of the country to the fort of Almada, opposite Lisbon. They retreated at his approach, and he entered Setubal without firing a shot. Conde de Mello had marched towards Elvas, to try and persuade the garrison to declare against the Government. The bulk of Saldanha's army had marched northward to meet Bomfim, who, with his own and a number of Das Antas's soldiers, had occupied Caldas. Colonel Lapa had been forced by Bomfim to fall back on Saldanha's main body. Casal had arrived with 2,400 men at Oporto. Sa da Bandeira had 600 regulars and 3,000 citizens under arms. The city was fortified: an attack was daily expected. But, notwithstanding these warlike appearances, there was some probability that matters would end in a "transaction." The negotiations with the junta of Oporto (with a view, undoubtedly, to a convention) are going on very briskly, as may be estimated from the fact that, instead of proceeding to England, the Scourge may, perhaps, return again from Oporto. "On the whole," says the *Times*' correspondent, "notwithstanding the warlike appearances, Col. Wyld may become the agent of a pacific conclusion."

By the latest accounts from Oporto the Queen's cause does not prosper there:—"Casal is in full retreat, and has even lost a little baggage and some provisions, a sign that he is in a hurry. He goes towards Braga. I believe that the intelligence from Lisbon is extremely unfavourable to the Queen's cause, as it is reported that Das Antas has detached a force and totally defeated the troops on their way to this city *via* Coimbra. If this be true, the war is as likely to last as ever it was. A large force of guerillas, &c., has marched out to harass Casal's rear."

SPAIN.

On the 17th inst. the Ministerial crisis still continued, and various rumours were in circulation respecting its probable issue. It appears that after the Cabinet council held on the previous day, all the Ministers tendered their resignation. The Queen, however, declined to accept it, and insisted on their continuing in office until the meeting of the Cortes. The President of the Cabinet vainly reiterated his determination to resign; her Majesty was inexorable, and it was the general opinion that the present Ministry would open the Cortes. The *Espanol* states, that of the 302 elections known, 182 were favourable to the Government, 37 belonged to the Conservative opposition, 52 to the Progresista party, and five to the Absolutists. It is supposed that the present Ministry will give way to one of more liberal tendency.

"Attempts have been made," writes the correspondent of the *Times*, "to effect a reconciliation between Mon, Pidal, and Narvaez—I believe, as yet, without effect. The Coriolanus of the 'situation' is still sulky. M. Bresson has paid him more than one mysterious visit, and no doubt made him more than one honeyed speech. But 'the voice of the charmer' is no longer listened to. Narvaez breaks in on the tender accents of renewed friendship, with an uncouth but unmistakable exclamation, that he never—no, never—will take office, unless Maria Christina, Fernando Munoz, and their numerous progeny, be sent packing out of the kingdom. M. Bresson would fain hint at 'beauty in tears,' 'maternal tenderness,' &c. 'Beauty in tears, maternal tenderness, &c., may all go, body and soul, to—Jericho,' cries the victim of that ancient juggler Louis Philippe. M. Bresson retires abashed, but not defeated, and ready, no doubt, to return to the charge."

"We learn from an unquestionable source," says the *Times*, "that 'the Rianzares,' that is, Queen Christina and her husband, aided by all the power of French intrigue, had resumed complete influence over the young Queen, who, at their instance, commanded M. Isturitz to remain in the Ministry, and seemed willing in every other respect to conform to all and every wish of theirs!"

FRANCE.

From the 1st to the 15th of December, 769,141 relief tickets were distributed in Paris. It is estimated that the number of tickets to be distributed during the last fifteen days of December will amount to 925,600, being, altogether, 2,316,885 for forty-six days, or nearly 50,000 a day. The ordinance of the Prefect states that the consumption of each family is to be calculated at the rate of 1lb. of bread per day and per person, without distinction of age or sex. The tickets represent a value of twelve centimes each, to be allowed in the price of a 4lb. loaf, to be divided between four persons. It follows that the 50,000 tickets relieved each day 200,000 persons. The number of indigent inscribed amounts to from 80,000 to 90,000. It is evident, therefore, that more than 100,000 persons who, at other periods, have not recourse to public charity have accepted eagerly the assistance offered them by the city of Paris, to pass with less difficulty the months of scarcity to which the dearth of bread exposes them.—*Journal des Débats*.

"Bands of mendicants, more or less numerous," says the *Journal de Chartres*, "traverse the country during the night, and apply at isolated farm-houses for bread. Sometimes, even, they refuse the food which is offered to them, and demand money, of which they themselves fix the amount."

BELGIUM.

Belgium is suffering from aggravated distress among the poorer classes. For instance, a letter written at Courtrai on the 18th instant, and published in the *Journal de Bruxelles*, says—"The distress which is raging at present among our population has caused the establishment of slaughter-houses for horses in several villages, which compete with the established butchers. As soon as it is known that a horse has been slaughtered, the flesh is immediately purchased by the operative classes at twelve centimes, or 1d., the pound weight." The *Journal de Gand* of the 19th states, that on that day a band consisting of fifteen persons attacked the

bakers' shops in that city, and plundered them of all their bread. Two of these rioters were arrested and lodged in prison. The number of indigent inscribed on the books of the charitable associations amounts to from 700,000 to 800,000, out of a population of 4,000,000—that is, nearly a fifth of the population.

The number of paupers receiving parochial relief in Antwerp, Brabant, West Flanders, East Flanders, Hainault, Liège, Limburg, and Luxemburg, is seven hundred thousand, upon a population of little more than four millions!

ITALY.

The annexation of Cracow by Austria is said to have produced a very lively impression in the different Italian states; and to have aroused throughout the Peninsula the long-smothered sentiments of dislike and distrust of the Austrians. The 5th of this month was the centenary of the expulsion of the Austrian troops from Genoa by a popular insurrection. On that day many meetings were held at Genoa, and toasts of the most violent character "to the independence of Italy," accompanied by cries of "Down with the Austrians!" were drunk with great applause. In the evening, the mountains which surround Genoa were at the same moment covered with bonfires; and a simultaneous illumination extended over the whole chain of the Apennines from Genoa to Florence and Bologna, in the direction of Rome and Naples, and, doubtless, also to Calabria.

The *Times* has an interesting paper on the bearing of railways in respect to the political relations of Austria and Italy. A railroad is in progress, which, starting from Ostend, is to pass into Italy by means of a tunnel through the Alps. At Lugano it will join the Piedmontese lines, and so communicate with Genoa and other parts of Italy. Of this railway Austria is said to be exceedingly jealous, both as a commercial competitor with her own peculiar line from Hamburg to Trieste, and as tending to give political strength to the kingdom of Sardinia; and, accordingly, the Austrian Government has resolved that, if it can be prevented, Northern Italy shall not be opened by a line of traffic passing on the western side of Lago Maggiore, and through the cantons of Tessin and the Grisons. An effort is to be made to break the chain at the weakest link—the canton of Grisons, in Switzerland, by means of a special mission. Meanwhile, the open hostility of Austria to the scheme, and the various intrigues she has resorted to in order to defeat it, have irritated the Court of Turin, and roused the indignation of that portion of the Italian people who are not Austrian subjects. King Charles Albert has already refused to comply with the request of the Austrian Government, that he would expel from Turin two literary Italian Liberals; and has also given other evidences of a determination to persevere in a vigorous and independent line of policy: this railway contest will probably provoke him to further resistance.

The Roman correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing on the 12th inst., describes a disastrous overflow of the Tiber; flooding two-thirds of the inhabited streets, and destroying property, both in town and country, to a melancholy extent. The Ghetto, or quarter to which the residence of the Jews is confined, suffered severely; but a spirit worthy of the new Pope seems to have animated the whole Christian population, and supplies were carried from all quarters to the poor in Ghetto.

INDIA.

Advices have been received by the overland mail from Bombay, to the 16th ult. They contain no remarkable facts.

The news from the kingdom of Lahore and the new kingdom of Jamoo represent them as both propped up by the British troops. In Jamoo there are four armies besides the troops of the numerous mountain Rajahs. The four armies are—first, that of Gholab Singh, who is struggling to obtain possession of his purchased sovereignty, composed, as it is, of the most discordant materials; second, the army (the strength of which is unknown) of the Sheik Emaun-ood-Deen, who, secure in the vale of Cashmere, refuses to submit to Gholab; third, the force under the Lahore General, Tej Singh, which has gone on the (to them) most repugnant mission of fighting for the traitor Gholab; and, fourth, the two British divisions commanded by Generals Littler and Wheeler, who are in possession of Jamoo, the capital, which they have undertaken to protect for Gholab while he himself is engaged in the field.

The position of Gholab is ludicrously critical. He has no right or title to the sovereignty of the Hazarah (or hill-country), save that he bought it of the British, who were never in possession of it; and as he is looked upon as a traitor by the Sikhs, and as an infidel by the Mahomedans, he can have no hope, except through his money (the spoils of Runjeet Singh's treasury), and through the protection of the British. He has bought and paid for the Government, but the Hill tribes, who are Mahomedan, refuse allegiance to him. The British authorities cannot waste blood and treasure in putting him in possession of mountain districts which he will not be able to hold. He is becoming daily more and more embarrassed and indebted, and will have to yield the rule of the newly-acquired country to other petty sovereigns, who may, perhaps, pay him tribute for a few seasons.

Sheik Emaun-ood-Deen, whose resources appear not to be understood, has contrived by various shifts to put off the day of surrender until the snow fell in November. The latest news from Sir John Littler's force, which was encamped at Bukreewallah Ghat, on one side of the Chenab, and Brigadier Wheeler on the other, is to the effect that they were all disappointed at the non-surrender of the Sheik, which ought to have been effected before the 30th, but had not taken place. The united Lahore and British forces were delayed several days by heavy rains.

Lall Singh, who is Vizier at Lahore by the permission of the British, lately succeeded in bringing to that capital the Nazim of Moultan, from whom he succeeded in obtaining promissory notes to a large amount; he then bestowed various honours on the Nazim, and gave him leave to go home, where it is probable he will speedily contrive some means of avoiding the payment of the notes.

The presence of the British troops can alone preserve the kingdom of Lahore from breaking into many little states, such as existed forty years ago, before Old Runjeet, the Lion of Lahore, subjugated them.

From Scinde there is no news of importance. Sir Charles Napier was at Kurrachee, where the climate was pleasant. Preparations are going forward for the removal of five native regiments from Scinde in the course of January and February next, unless their presence should be required by any disturbance without the frontier.

In the interior of India tranquillity prevails.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Papers have been received from the Cape of Good Hope to the 10th, and from Graham's Town to the 4th October. Two more of the colonists had fallen victims to marauding parties of Caffres, but particulars are not stated. Colonel Somerset had been proceeding with persevering vigilance, and had recovered a considerable quantity of cattle. The result was, that overtures for peace were sent in from the Gocha chiefs. The terms offered by the Governor were the same as before—namely, that the fire-arms and the whole of the colonial cattle should be surrendered, and that the country, as far as the Kei, should be placed under British control. Macomo seemed disposed to agree individually, but the other chiefs entirely rejected the conditions. They stated that most of the cattle were dead; that they were tired of the war, and were determined not to fight any more; that they were under the feet of the British; and that the commander might go to their kraals without any resistance; but to give up their guns was out of the question. So stood matters at the latest date.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

ACCIDENT TO THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.—An accident, which had nearly been attended with fatal consequences, has occurred to the Emperor of Russia. On the 9th of this month the Emperor was on his route from St. Petersburg to Warsaw, and had arrived at the border of the large river at Kiów, where there is no bridge. A temporary platform had been constructed to run the Emperor's travelling carriage into the ferry-boat: it gave way, and the carriage was precipitated into the water. The Emperor, with Count Orloff, who was also in the carriage, was obliged to escape from the window, and waded up to his middle in the water; and, as the current was running very strongly, and the river was full of ice, no little danger was incurred. The Emperor abandoned his intended visit, and turned back for St. Petersburg, probably thinking the immersion a bad omen. The pretext was, that the delay caused by the accident obliged him to return at once to keep an appointment.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN FRANCE.—By a recent decision of the French Minister of War, the ministers of the Protestant and Jewish religions are authorised to visit the sick patients of their faith in the hospitals, and to administer to them religious rites and consolation. Strict orders have been given with a view to enforce the execution of this regulation.—*Paris Paper.*

THE CHOLERA has almost entirely disappeared at Bagdad. The number of victims to that disease has been calculated at 8,000 in the town of Bagdad, and 30,000 in the rest of the province.

PIUS THE NINTH has granted to the Jews of Rome certain civil privileges from which they were excluded; and has ordered that in relief granted to the needy, Jews shall share equally with Christians.—*Jewish Chronicle.*

MR. COBDEN IN SPAIN.—Mr. Cobden arrived at Barcelona on the 9th inst., proceeded on his tour through Spain and was at Perpignan on the 13th on his return. He has visited Malaga, Almeria, Alicante, and Valencia, and has been most favourably received at all those towns; the free-trade principles, the propagation of which is the object of his mission, were freely and warmly discussed by the commercial men of these important sea-ports. On the 30th ult. there was a grand banquet at Malaga, in honour of the distinguished free-trader. The scene of the banquet was the saloon of the new and magnificent hotel, about to be opened in the so-called Casa de Campo, a beautiful edifice on the eve of completion. The saloon was adorned with the greatest taste and elegance, beautiful draperies were suspended from the walls, which were also graced by a multitude of paintings by the first masters of the school of Seville, representing the portraits of eminent men, especially Spaniards. The guests invited included all the "notabilities" of Malaga, principally merchants and parties interested in trade. The health of Mr. Cobden was drunk with every demonstration of good feeling, and was responded to by the hon. gentleman in a happy speech, which called forth much applause. "I doubt not," he said, "that, after mature reflection upon a matter of so much interest, the people of Spain will come to the same conclusion as my countrymen. They will be convinced, as we are, that free-trade promises to all nations the greatest possible amount of prosperity, well-being, and felicity; they will view it, like ourselves, as the presage of peace between nations; this magic word, peace, expresses in a thousand ways the progress of humanity and civilisation; and they will see, with us, that the dearest interests of the great family of the human race are involved in our principles" [prolonged applause].

PUBLIC KILLING BY THE HANGMAN, AND A YORKSHIRE JURY.—The acquittal of the three men charged with the Barnard Castle double midnight murder has excited surprise from many who heard the trial. There is little doubt that the consequences which would have followed a verdict of guilty had a serious effect on the jury, some of whom, after the trial, stated at their inn, that they had no doubt of the guilt of the prisoners, but they did not like to take life.—*Leeds Mercury.*

We are told by the *Morning Post* that the King Consort of Portugal, Ferdinand of Coburg, rides about Lisbon with his two children, dressed up in military uniforms, just like two monkeys, to attract public attention.

MISS MARTINEAU has proceeded from Alexandria to Cairo, and will shortly commence her tour in Upper Egypt.

IRELAND.

ASSOCIATION OF LANDLORDS.

The Irish landlords, who have been meeting in Dublin to consider the state of the country, are now a constituted body, and have assumed the title of the "Reproductive Employment Committee." Their first act has been to issue a circular forwarding a paper of suggestions for the consideration of practical men in various districts; and also a copy of the resolution passed by the meeting at which the committee was appointed.

The resolution calls upon the landed proprietors of Ireland to co-operate in adopting the provisions of the Million Drainage Act, rather than avail themselves of the provisions of the Labour-rate Act as modified by Mr. Labouchere's letter. By this means, they would be able to dispense with the Labour-rate Act, and its attendant mischiefs. This act has, on the one hand, the advantage of assessing all landed property, according to its value, for the purpose of giving employment to the destitute poor; but on the other hand, the disadvantage that it applies only to unprofitable works. This defect was partially modified by Mr. Labouchere's letter: but through the operation of that letter the only advantage of the original enactment was lost, namely, that of taxation in proportion to value; "for, instead of simply allowing each proprietor to have his proportion of the electoral assessment expended either in reproductive or unproductive works, at his option, it has introduced a plan which inflicts a species of double taxation on the reproductive employer, in cases where all the proprietors in an electoral division do not agree that the assessment should be applied to reproductive works." The requirement of an "assent" or "undertaking," too, has the effect of preventing unanimity, by inducing proprietors negligent of their properties, or governed by more unworthy motives, to dissent or withhold their undertakings from the reproductive class of presentments at sessions, "as by so doing they either wholly escape all taxation, or suffer one greatly diminished in amount—diminished in proportion to the quality taken by the more enlightened and liberal proprietors." "In addition to this objection, another obvious one presents itself to Mr. Labouchere's letter, namely, that as it only allows works of 'drainage,' and 'subsoiling in connexion with drainage,' it is inapplicable to a great part of the country—parts where drainage is not wanting, and parts where drainage cannot take place till the main outlets are cleared and deepened, which can only be a work of time."

The remedies suggested are these:—

1. That the "undertaking" required by Mr. Labouchere's letter should be dispensed with.
2. That each proprietor, consenting to take his proportion of the sum assessed on his electoral division, to be applied in reproductive works, under the superintendence of the Board of Works, should thereby be exempted from all further taxation in relation to that particular assessment.
3. That such reproductive works should not be confined to drainage, but should include clearing land of stones, subsoiling unconnected with drainage, and other permanent works of a reproductive nature.
4. That two or more proprietors should have the power of uniting, and of having the proportion assessed on such proprietors spent on any particular work.
5. That after the primary assessment, the sessions should adjourn for a limited period; and that if any part of the money assessed upon the electoral division be not applied for by a proprietor for reproductive works before the re-assembling of the sessions, the same shall be applied in public works.
6. That the money to be expended under the amended Act, and also the money expended under Mr. Labouchere's letter, shall be repayable in the same manner as money advanced under the Million Act, in twenty-two annual instalments, to be collected by the quit-rent collectors.
7. That powers should be given to the Board of Works to advance money, by way of loan, to railway companies that have obtained their Acts; such money to be laid out in making the earth-works of the railway, and to be expended before the 1st of August, 1847.

At a subsequent meeting the committee determined on the issue of a second circular, containing their views in reference to the present supply of food. This document, it is said, will contain suggestions for the suspension of the navigation-laws, so far as to allow of the importation of food in foreign bottoms, the employment of men-of-war for the conveyance of food, and permission for Relief committees to sell provisions under cost price, or give food to the impotent poor:—

This committee desire to express their cordial approbation of the conduct of her Majesty's Government in reference to the benefits intended to be conferred upon this country by the Treasury minutes of the 1st instant; and they earnestly press upon the landed interests of Ireland the advantages they will gain by availing themselves of that concession. They are thereby enabled to borrow money without the necessity of making title to their properties, on the most advantageous terms, for all purposes of permanent improvement; which will increase the value of land. They are permitted to perform the works with labourers of their own choice, and without the expensive machinery which a labour-rate act of the best kind must involve. And the tendency of this minute (if it be properly carried out) is to accomplish one of the main objects of this committee, namely, to employ, without demoralising the labourer, and to rid the country of a burdensome taxation applied to unproductive works.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF has virtually begun in Ireland. The Dean of Achonry represented to the Commissary-General that it was absolutely impossible for many persons totally destitute to buy meal from the Government stores, even at the cost price; the local work house being full. Sir Randolph Routh replies, through his secretary, "that while the workhouse is full, gratuitous relief (by free tickets) for food may be given to the actually infirm poor who are destitute; but in all other cases the food provided should be sold at a price sufficient to repay the first cost with all charges, including £5 per cent for storing and selling."

The recent Treasury Minute has met with the unqualified approval of the Reproductive Committee; as will be seen by the terms of the resolution adopted at their meeting on Tuesday last.

The accounts from Ireland mention that very severe weather has set in; of course deplorably aggravating the distress.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BAPTIST IRISH SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I have been exceedingly gratified with the earnestness of your articles on the distress which prevails in Ireland; and the cordiality with which you have recommended attention to the appeals of the Secretary of the Irish Evangelical Society; and, as I perceived in one of your recent numbers, you presumed other societies connected with Ireland were doing something to help the famishing poor in the districts they occupied, though you were not certain of the fact, I address these few lines to you, and to your readers, just to say that, ever since our annual meeting in April last, when a fund was commenced by the Chairman, J. L. Phillips, Esq., of Melksham, we have been urging the matter on our friends, through our little *Monthly Chronicle*, which is sent out with the magazines; and we have not appealed in vain. Very many churches have made a collection at the Lord's-table, others a congregational collection, and many private individuals have sent donations. In some cases these have been repeated.

A sub-committee has been appointed to receive and consider the applications. The sums voted have been sent to the missionaries in the various parts of the country, to be by them distributed as carefully and judiciously as possible; and they have been instructed to send an account as to whom, and in what amounts, these sums have been given. In some instances night schools have been opened for the winter, and qualified persons employed to teach them. In such cases useful work has been done for the money given to these parties.

The ravages of famine are now almost universal. They have penetrated into the north of Ireland. I need not send details. The fact is not now doubted, for scores are dying every week.

Those friends, therefore, who would prefer sending their contributions through the agents of the Baptist Irish Society can either remit them to me, or to the Treasurer, Edward Smith, Esq., 60, Old Broad-street, London.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

FREDERICK TRESTRAIL, Secretary.

Mission-house, Moorgate-street, Dec. 29, 1846.

TAHITI.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—The movement, so general at this moment among the Christians of our country, in behalf of the oppressed natives of Tahiti and the surrounding islands, menaced with a similar fate, must rejoice every friend of humanity, much more every soul that identifies itself with the advancement of the reign of truth, and righteousness, and peace, in the world.

This movement is expressive of that sympathy which should subsist between all the members of that one spiritual body, so that, as the apostle beautifully says, when "one member suffers, all suffer with it," without regard to human distinctions, or the importance of position of that member; but, while the movement, and the sentiment of which it is the expression, gladden the Christian heart, the choice of the agency by which it is proposed to accomplish the end in view inspires a feeling of regret.

The state of these victims of an unjust and unprovoked aggression (of which every one conversant with what is going on in France knows the real object to be the crushing of Protestant missions and extension of Romanism; for the secret mover of the original expedition to Oceania is the "Propaganda de la Foi," acting on the religious zeal of an influential individual nearest to the French throne) loudly calls on us to make every effort for their deliverance. But why go to the Foreign-office? There is something revolting in the idea of Christian missions and our belligerent Foreign Secretary in juxtaposition. Would it not be more characteristic of the object sought—more consonant to the principles of those who seek it—more in harmony with the spirit of the meek and holy Jesus—were the British churches (and let them all come forward to the noble work) to unite in an earnest petition to the French Government to leave in peace the yet unconquered Polynesian isles, and allow the natives of Tahiti to withdraw thither, guaranteed from further molestation?

Besides being more consistent, I am persuaded that such a mode of proceeding would be more likely to succeed than diplomatic interference. An earnest petition from a large proportion of British Christians would command the attention of the French Government, arouse no political jealousies and suspicions, alarm no sensitive feeling of national honour (as it is called), and perhaps obtain its prayer. The most fiery enemy of England could bring nothing forward against the concession on such grounds; and it would be a graceful act, fitted to make the doers popular, even with their own people; but if the matter be put into the hands of state secretaries, made an affair of diplomacy, there is no saying what may be the result;—as you justly observe, in some of your remarks on the subject, "the murder of French and English soldiers may be sanctioned to save the poor Tahitians." When have diplomatists or cabinet ministers ever done anything to deliver oppressed Christianity, or further the progress of its holy principles, unless to subserve political ends? and then it has been by means that no Christian, acting in accordance with his principles, could sanction.

British Christians have much to reproach themselves with in the tardiness of their awakening to make any effort for their poor Tahitian brethren; and it speaks but little for the prevalence of that sympathy between the members of Christ's spiritual body on earth, before alluded to, that some years have elapsed before they thought of moving in this righteous cause; but let them beware of now repairing their past indolence by an impetuosity which may involve consequences far more prejudicial to the progress of the kingdom of righteousness and peace on earth, than the desolating of one field of missionary labour, however promising, and even fruitful.

I am, dear sir, with much esteem, yours,
Laghorn, Dec. 17, 1846.

H. G.

THE ROBBERY AT MESSRS. ROGERS AND CO.'S.—One of the bills included in the robbery from the premises of Messrs. Rogers and Co. (and which has since been paid, upon indemnity, to that firm), was, on Wednesday, anonymously transmitted to the acceptors in a post-letter. The letter intimated, that as there was no chance of the business being settled, the writer thought that the bill might as well be given up.

Recent comparisons give the expectation of life at 21 years of age in the three classes of sovereigns, the aristocracy, and the gentry of this country, as 64, 65, and 67½ years respectively; at 51, the expectation is 64, 72, and 74 years.

SUCCESSFUL USE OF VAPOUR OF ETHER.—We have been informed that two operations were performed by Mr. Liston, at the University College Hospital, on Saturday last, while the patients were under the stupefying influence of vapour of ether. The one was amputation of the leg, the other, evulsion of the nail of the great toe. The vapour of ether was inhaled by means of a proper apparatus, and when it had produced its full effect the operation was speedily performed. Neither of the patients knew, when they recovered from their stupor, that the operation had been performed. Mr. Liston observed, that the vapour of ether had been used for a similar purpose in America, but only in minor operations, such as the removal of tumours, &c. We hope to have further particulars on this very interesting subject.—*Medical Times*. Mr. Robinson, surgeon-dentist, of Gower-street, in a letter to the *Morning Chronicle*, details several cases in which he has rendered his patients insensible to pain by this means. We subjoin the following interesting particulars:—

On the 19th, in the presence of Dr. Boott and his family, at his own residence, I operated upon a young person thrown into sleep by the inhalation, and extracted a molar tooth from her lower jaw. The inhalation occupied a minute and a half, and the patient's recovery from sleep another minute. Dr. Boott questioned her respecting the tooth, and she expressed her great surprise at finding that it was removed. She said that all she had felt was merely a sensation of cold around the tooth, a sensation which was caused, perhaps, by the coldness of the extracting instrument. The apparatus employed consisted of the lower part of Nooth's apparatus, with a flexible tube, to which was attached a ball and socket valve and mouthpiece similar to those commonly used for inhalation. I repeated the experiment a few days after on other parties; but, in several cases, little or no effect was produced by the vapour. The fact was that the ball and socket valve, though impervious to water, was not so to air; moreover, as the patient was becoming insensible, and the breathing tranquil and involuntary, he had no longer the power of raising the ball. Hence the breath passed into the vessel and diluted the ether vapour, and only an incomplete insensibility ensued. Instructed by these circumstances, I have had another apparatus made by Mr. Elphick, of Castle-street, Oxford-street. It consists of a mouth-piece, containing two valves, a perpendicular one which permits a perfectly free inhalation, but closes when expiration begins, and opens the other, an horizontal valve, with a perpendicular action at the top. By this means inspiration and expiration are both allowed with the greatest freedom. To the end of this mouth-piece is attached a pad, containing a spring well stuffed and adapted to the external contour of the mouth, also a clip for compressing the nostrils, and thus preventing the patient from drawing in the air, either through the nose or by the corners of the mouth. This apparatus I tried on Saturday last on two patients, from one of whom I removed an upper molar, from the other, a deep-seated stump. My success was complete. Yesterday I again operated at my house, in Dr. Boott's presence, on Mr. Dixon, surgical instrument maker, of Tonbridge-place, New-road.

STATISTICS OF EDUCATION IN DEVON.—Some of our readers will perhaps recollect, that in our report of the proceedings of the Devon Educational Conference, it was for the most part supposed, that only about 20,000, out of 95,580 children who ought to be under daily instruction in that county, were doing so. In a letter to the *Western Times*, Mr. Windest, of Totnes, points out several glaring errors in the data on which this calculation is based:—

In the first place, I apprehend, it is now admitted that one in nine (and not one in six) of the population is the proportion which should be in receipt of daily instruction. This is the calculation, I believe, now adopted by Lord Brougham, and Dr. Vaughan, of Manchester, as well as by Mr. Baines, of Leeds. This will reduce the number which should now be in daily schools in this county to 63,722. Since the meeting of the Conference, I have had an opportunity of referring to the abstract, published by the House of Commons, of the returns of education, obtained in 1833, and generally, I believe, known as Lord Kerry's returns, and which returns are, I believe, known to be within the truth.

This return gives the following summary for the county of Devon:—Population in 1831, 494,478; in infant schools, 2,531; in daily schools, 22,440; total children under daily instruction, 54,971.

This is exclusive of Sunday-schools, in which there were 43,342 children under instruction.

These returns were made in 1833, only two years after the census of 1831, and show a number under daily instruction of more than one in nine on the population, according to that census; and even if we deduct the infant schools (though as the ages of the children in those schools range from two to seven years, I do not think that the whole of that number should be excluded) it still gives 52,440 children under daily instruction in 1833, in contrast to the "hardly 20,000 under daily instruction" in 1846.

But will it be contended that daily instruction has decreased in Devon since 1833? I apprehend that the contrary is so notorious that no one would be bold enough to assert that any decrease has taken place.

At least his own experience goes to prove an increase both in the extent and quality of school instruction, and he expresses a confident belief that such a state of things needs only to be encouraged, directed, and, where necessary, aided by the Association formed in Exeter on Wednesday last, in order to give, even to agricultural Devon, a sound, useful, and Christian education, and that too without any Government interference.

METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION FOR IMPROVING THE DWELLINGS OF THE POOR.—The first annual meeting of this association was held on Wednesday, in their rooms in Coleman-street. Mr. John W. Tottie, the deputy chairman, presided. The report presented a favourable account of the operations of the association. A piece of ground has been obtained, nearly opposite Old St. Pancras Church, for erecting suitable buildings for the accommodation of the labouring classes, to combine greatly improved accommodation with diminished rent. The building, it is expected, will be finished within twelve months from the present time. From the financial statement it appeared that 27,963 had been received, and £2,094 expended.

THE WELLINGTON STATUE.—The *Builder* says that the site for the Wellington Statue is still in doubt. The excavation recently made in the space behind the Horse Guards was merely to ascertain the fitness of the soil for supporting the necessary foundation; and other accounts say that owing to the presence of land-springs the site is deemed unfit to receive so enormous a weight.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

THE CIVIL WAR IN PORTUGAL.

Advices have been received from Lisbon to the 20th inst. The capital was tranquil. The Visconde de Setubal had marched, with 600 men, on the insurgents under Senhor José Estevao, who had possession of Setubal, and of the country to the fort of Almada, opposite Lisbon. They retreated at his approach, and he entered Setubal without firing a shot. Conde de Mello had marched towards Elvas, to try and persuade the garrison to declare against the Government. The bulk of Saldanha's army had marched northward to meet Bomfim, who, with his own and a number of Das Antas's soldiers, had occupied Caldas. Colonel Lapa had been forced by Bomfim to fall back on Saldanha's main body. Casal had arrived with 2,400 men at Oporto. Sa da Bandeira had 600 regulars and 3,000 citizens under arms. The city was fortified; an attack was daily expected. But, notwithstanding these warlike appearances, there was some probability that matters would end in a "transaction." The negotiations with the junta of Oporto (with a view, undoubtedly, to a convention) are going on very briskly, as may be estimated from the fact that, instead of proceeding to England, the Scourge may, perhaps, return again from Oporto. "On the whole," says the *Times*' correspondent, "notwithstanding the warlike appearances, Col. Wyld may become the agent of a pacific conclusion."

By the latest accounts from Oporto the Queen's cause does not prosper there:—"Casal is in full retreat, and has even lost a little baggage and some provisions, a sign that he is in a hurry. He goes towards Braga. I believe that the intelligence from Lisbon is extremely unfavourable to the Queen's cause, as it is reported that Das Antas has detached a force and totally defeated the troops on their way to this city *via* Coimbra. If this be true, the war is as likely to last as ever it was. A large force of guerillas, &c., has marched out to harass Casal's rear."

SPAIN.

On the 17th inst. the Ministerial crisis still continued, and various rumours were in circulation respecting its probable issue. It appears that after the Cabinet council held on the previous day, all the Ministers tendered their resignation. The Queen, however, declined to accept it, and insisted on their continuing in office until the meeting of the Cortes. The President of the Cabinet vainly reiterated his determination to resign: her Majesty was inexorable, and it was the general opinion that the present Ministry would open the Cortes. The *Espanol* states, that of the 302 elections known, 182 were favourable to the Government, 37 belonged to the Conservative opposition, 52 to the Progresista party, and five to the Absolutists. It is supposed that the present Ministry will give way to one of more liberal tendency.

"Attempts have been made," writes the correspondent of the *Times*, "to effect a reconciliation between Mon, Pidal, and Narvaez—I believe, as yet, without effect. The Coriolanus of the 'situation' is still sulky. M. Bresson has paid him more than one mysterious visit, and no doubt made him more than one honeyed speech. But 'the voice of the charmer' is no longer listened to. Narvaez breaks in on the tender accents of renewed friendship, with an uncouth but unmistakable exclamation, that he never—no, never—will take office, unless Maria Christina, Fernando Munoz, and their numerous progeny, be sent packing out of the kingdom. M. Bresson would fain hint at 'beauty in tears,' 'maternal tenderness,' &c. 'Beauty in tears, maternal tenderness, &c., may all go, body and soul, to—Jericho,' cries the victim of that ancient juggler Louis Philippe. M. Bresson retires abashed, but not defeated, and ready, no doubt, to return to the charge."

"We learn from an unquestionable source," says the *Times*, "that 'the Rianzares,' that is, Queen Christina and her husband, aided by all the power of French intrigue, had resumed complete influence over the young Queen, who, at their instance, commanded M. Isturitz to remain in the Ministry, and seemed willing in every other respect to conform to all and every wish of theirs."

FRANCE.

From the 1st to the 15th of December, 769,141 relief tickets were distributed in Paris. It is estimated that the number of tickets to be distributed during the last fifteen days of December will amount to 925,600, being, altogether, 2,316,885 for forty-six days, or nearly 50,000 a day. The ordinance of the Prefect states that the consumption of each family is to be calculated at the rate of 1lb. of bread per day and per person, without distinction of age or sex. The tickets represent a value of twelve centimes each, to be allowed in the price of a 4lb. loaf, to be divided between four persons. It follows that the 50,000 tickets relieved each day 200,000 persons. The number of indigent inscribed amounts to from 80,000 to 90,000. It is evident, therefore, that more than 100,000 persons who, at other periods, have not recourse to public charity have accepted eagerly the assistance offered them by the city of Paris, to pass with less difficulty the months of scarcity to which the dearth of bread exposes them.—*Journal des Débats*.

"Bands of mendicants, more or less numerous," says the *Journal de Chartres*, "traverse the country during the night, and apply at isolated farm-houses for bread. Sometimes, even, they refuse the food which is offered to them, and demand money, of which they themselves fix the amount."

BELGIUM.

Belgium is suffering from aggravated distress among the poorer classes. For instance, a letter written at Courtrai on the 18th instant, and published in the *Journal de Bruxelles*, says—"The distress which is raging at present among our population has caused the establishment of slaughter-houses for horses in several villages, which compete with the established butchers. As soon as it is known that a horse has been slaughtered, the flesh is immediately purchased by the operative classes at twelve centimes, or 1d., the pound weight." The *Journal de Gand* of the 19th states, that on that day a band consisting of fifteen persons attacked the

bakers' shops in that city, and plundered them of all their bread. Two of these rioters were arrested and lodged in prison. The number of indigent inscribed on the books of the charitable associations amounts to from 700,000 to 800,000, out of a population of 4,000,000—that is, nearly a fifth of the population.

The number of paupers receiving parochial relief in Antwerp, Brabant, West Flanders, East Flanders, Hainault, Liège, Limburg, and Luxemburg, is seven hundred thousand, upon a population of little more than four millions!

ITALY.

The annexation of Cracow by Austria is said to have produced a very lively impression in the different Italian states; and to have aroused throughout the Peninsula the long-smothered sentiments of dislike and distrust of the Austrians. The 5th of this month was the centenary of the expulsion of the Austrian troops from Genoa by a popular insurrection. On that day many meetings were held at Genoa, and toasts of the most violent character "to the independence of Italy," accompanied by cries of "Down with the Austrians!" were drunk with great applause. In the evening, the mountains which surround Genoa were at the same moment covered with bonfires; and a simultaneous illumination extended over the whole chain of the Apennines from Genoa to Florence and Bologna, in the direction of Rome and Naples, and, doubtless, also to Calabria.

The *Times* has an interesting paper on the bearing of railways in respect to the political relations of Austria and Italy. A railroad is in progress, which, starting from Ostend, is to pass into Italy by means of a tunnel through the Alps. At Lugano it will join the Piedmontese lines, and so communicate with Genoa and other parts of Italy. Of this railway Austria is said to be exceedingly jealous, both as a commercial competitor with her own peculiar line from Hamburg to Trieste, and as tending to give political strength to the kingdom of Sardinia; and, accordingly, the Austrian Government has resolved that, if it can be prevented, Northern Italy shall not be opened by a line of traffic passing on the western side of Lago Maggiore, and through the cantons of Tessin and the Grisons. An effort is to be made to break the chain at the weakest link—the canton of Grisons, in Switzerland, by means of a special mission. Meanwhile, the open hostility of Austria to the scheme, and the various intrigues she has resorted to in order to defeat it, have irritated the Court of Turin, and roused the indignation of that portion of the Italian people who are not Austrian subjects. King Charles Albert has already refused to comply with the request of the Austrian Government, that he would expel from Turin two literary Italian Liberals; and has also given other evidences of a determination to persevere in a vigorous and independent line of policy: this railway contest will probably provoke him to further resistance.

The Roman correspondent of the *Daily News*, writing on the 12th inst., describes a disastrous overflow of the Tiber; flooding two-thirds of the inhabited streets, and destroying property, both in town and country, to a melancholy extent. The Ghetto, or quarter to which the residence of the Jews is confined, suffered severely; but a spirit worthy of the new Pope seems to have animated the whole Christian population, and supplies were carried from all quarters to the poor in Ghetto.

INDIA.

Advices have been received by the overland mail from Bombay, to the 16th ult. They contain no remarkable facts.

The news from the kingdom of Lahore and the new kingdom of Jamoo represent them as both propped up by the British troops. In Jamoo there are four armies besides the troops of the numerous mountain Rajahs. The four armies are—first, that of Gholab Singh, who is struggling to obtain possession of his purchased sovereignty, composed, as it is, of the most discordant materials; second, the army (the strength of which is unknown) of the Sheik Emaun-ood-Deen, who, secure in the vale of Cashmere, refuses to submit to Gholab; third, the force under the Lahore General, Tej Singh, which has gone on the (to them) most repugnant mission of fighting for the traitor Gholab; and, fourth, the two British divisions commanded by Generals Littler and Wheeler, who are in possession of Jamoo, the capital, which they have undertaken to protect for Gholab while he himself is engaged in the field.

The position of Gholab is ludicrously critical. He has no right or title to the sovereignty of the Hazarah (or hill-country), save that he bought it of the British, who were never in possession of it; and as he is looked upon as a traitor by the Sikhs, and as an infidel by the Mohammedans, he can have no hope, except through his money (the spoils of Runjeet Singh's treasury), and through the protection of the British. He has bought and paid for the Government, but the Hill tribes, who are Mahomedan, refuse allegiance to him. The British authorities cannot waste blood and treasure in putting him in possession of mountain districts which he will not be able to hold. He is becoming daily more and more embarrassed and indebted, and will have to yield the rule of the newly-acquired country to other petty sovereigns, who may, perhaps, pay him tribute for a few seasons.

Sheik Emaun-ood-Deen, whose resources appear not to be understood, has contrived by various shifts to put off the day of surrender until the snow fell in November. The latest news from Sir John Littler's force, which was encamped at Bukreewallah Ghat, on one side of the Chenah, and Brigadier Wheeler on the other, is to the effect that they were all disappointed at the non-surrender of the Sheik, which ought to have been effected before the 30th, but had not taken place. The united Lahore and British forces were delayed several days by heavy rains.

Lall Singh, who is Vizier at Lahore by the permission of the British, lately succeeded in bringing to that capital the Nazim of Moultan, from whom he succeeded in obtaining promissory notes to a large amount; he then bestowed various honours on the Nazim, and gave him leave to go home, where it is probable he will speedily contrive some means of avoiding the payment of the notes.

The presence of the British troops can alone preserve the kingdom of Lahore from breaking into many little states, such as existed forty years ago, before Old Runjeet, the Lion of Lahore, subjugated them.

From Scinde there is no news of importance. Sir Charles Napier was at Kurrachee, where the climate was pleasant. Preparations are going forward for the removal of five native regiments from Scinde in the course of January and February next, unless their presence should be required by any disturbance without the frontier.

In the interior of India tranquillity prevails.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Papers have been received from the Cape of Good Hope to the 10th, and from Graham's Town to the 4th October. Two more of the colonists had fallen victims to marauding parties of Caffres, but particulars are not stated. Colonel Somerset had been proceeding with persevering vigilance, and had recovered a considerable quantity of cattle. The result was, that overtures for peace were sent in from the Gocha chiefs. The terms offered by the Governor were the same as before—namely, that the fire-arms and the whole of the colonial cattle should be surrendered, and that the country, as far as the Kei, should be placed under British control. Macomo seemed disposed to agree individually, but the other chiefs entirely rejected the conditions. They stated that most of the cattle were dead; that they were tired of the war, and were determined not to fight any more; that they were under the feet of the British; and that the commander might go to their kraals without any resistance; but to give up their guns was out of the question. So stood matters at the latest date.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

ACCIDENT TO THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.—An accident, which had nearly been attended with fatal consequences, has occurred to the Emperor of Russia. On the 9th of this month the Emperor was on his route from St. Petersburg to Warsaw, and had arrived at the border of the large river at Kiów, where there is no bridge. A temporary platform had been constructed to run the Emperor's travelling carriage into the ferry-boat: it gave way, and the carriage was precipitated into the water. The Emperor, with Count Orloff, who was also in the carriage, was obliged to escape from the window, and waded up to his middle in the water; and, as the current was running very strongly, and the river was full of ice, no little danger was incurred. The Emperor abandoned his intended visit, and turned back for St. Petersburg, probably thinking the immersion a bad omen. The pretext was, that the delay caused by the accident obliged him to return at once to keep an appointment.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN FRANCE.—By a recent decision of the French Minister of War, the ministers of the Protestant and Jewish religions are authorised to visit the sick patients of their faith in the hospitals, and to administer to them religious rites and consolation. Strict orders have been given with a view to enforce the execution of this regulation.—*Paris Paper.*

THE CHOLERA has almost entirely disappeared at Bagdad. The number of victims to that disease has been calculated at 8,000 in the town of Bagdad, and 30,000 in the rest of the province.

PIUS THE NINTH has granted to the Jews of Rome certain civil privileges from which they were excluded; and has ordered that in relief granted to the needy, Jews shall share equally with Christians.—*Jewish Chronicle.*

MR. COBDEN IN SPAIN.—Mr. Cobden arrived at Barcelona on the 9th inst., proceeded on his tour through Spain and was at Perpignan on the 13th on his return. He has visited Malaga, Almeria, Alicante, and Valencia, and has been most favourably received at all those towns; the free-trade principles, the propagation of which is the object of his mission, were freely and warmly discussed by the commercial men of these important sea-ports. On the 30th ult. there was a grand banquet at Malaga, in honour of the distinguished free-trader. The scene of the banquet was the saloon of the new and magnificent hotel, about to be opened in the so-called Casa de Campo, a beautiful edifice on the eve of completion. The saloon was adorned with the greatest taste and elegance, beautiful draperies were suspended from the walls, which were also graced by a multitude of paintings by the first masters of the school of Seville, representing the portraits of eminent men, especially Spaniards. The guests invited included all the "notabilities" of Malaga, principally merchants and parties interested in trade. The health of Mr. Cobden was drunk with every demonstration of good feeling, and was responded to by the hon. gentleman in a happy speech, which called forth much applause. "I doubt not," he said, "that, after mature reflection upon a matter of so much interest, the people of Spain will come to the same conclusion as my countrymen. They will be convinced, as we are, that free-trade promises to all nations the greatest possible amount of prosperity, well-being, and felicity; they will view it, like ourselves, as the presage of peace between nations; this magic word, peace, expresses in a thousand ways the progress of humanity and civilisation; and they will see, with us, that the dearest interests of the great family of the human race are involved in our principles" [prolonged applause].

PUBLIC KILLING BY THE HANGMAN, AND A YORKSHIRE JURY.—The acquittal of the three men charged with the Barnard Castle double midnight murder has excited surprise from many who heard the trial. There is little doubt that the consequences which would have followed a verdict of guilty had a serious effect on the jury, some of whom, after the trial, stated at their inn, that they had no doubt of the guilt of the prisoners, but they did not like to take life.—*Leeds Mercury.*

We are told by the *Morning Post* that the King Consort of Portugal, Ferdinand of Coburg, rides about Lisbon with his two children, dressed up in military uniforms, just like two monkeys, to attract public attention.

MISS MARTINEAU has proceeded from Alexandria to Cairo, and will shortly commence her tour in Upper Egypt.

IRELAND.

ASSOCIATION OF LANDLORDS.

The Irish landlords, who have been meeting in Dublin to consider the state of the country, are now a constituted body, and have assumed the title of the "Reproductive Employment Committee." Their first act has been to issue a circular forwarding a paper of suggestions for the consideration of practical men in various districts; and also a copy of the resolution passed by the meeting at which the committee was appointed.

The resolution calls upon the landed proprietors of Ireland to co-operate in adopting the provisions of the Million Drainage Act, rather than avail themselves of the provisions of the Labour-rate Act as modified by Mr. Labouchere's letter. By this means, they would be able to dispense with the Labour-rate Act, and its attendant mischiefs. This act has, on the one hand, the advantage of assessing all landed property, according to its value, for the purpose of giving employment to the destitute poor; but on the other hand, the disadvantage that it applies only to unprofitable works. This defect was partially modified by Mr. Labouchere's letter: but through the operation of that letter the only advantage of the original enactment was lost, namely, that of taxation in proportion to value; "for, instead of simply allowing each proprietor to have his proportion of the electoral assessment expended either in reproductive or unproductive works, at his option, it has introduced a plan which inflicts a species of double taxation on the reproductive employer, in cases where all the proprietors in an electoral division do not agree that the assessment should be applied to reproductive works." The requirement of an "assent" or "undertaking," too, has the effect of preventing unanimity, by inducing proprietors negligent of their properties, or governed by more unworthy motives, to dissent or withhold their undertakings from the reproductive class of presentments at sessions, "as by so doing they either wholly escape all taxation, or suffer one greatly diminished in amount—diminished in proportion to the quality taken by the more enlightened and liberal proprietors." "In addition to this objection, another obvious one presents itself to Mr. Labouchere's letter, namely, that as it only allows works of 'drainage,' and 'subsoiling in connexion with drainage,' it is inapplicable to a great part of the country—parts where drainage is not wanting, and parts where drainage cannot take place till the main outlets are cleared and deepened, which can only be a work of time."

The remedies suggested are these:—

1. That the "undertaking" required by Mr. Labouchere's letter should be dispensed with.
2. That each proprietor, consenting to take his proportion of the sum assessed on his electoral division, to be applied in reproductive works, under the superintendence of the Board of Works, should thereby be exempted from all further taxation in relation to that particular assessment.
3. That such reproductive works should not be confined to drainage, but should include clearing land of stones, subsoiling unconnected with drainage, and other permanent works of a reproductive nature.
4. That two or more proprietors should have the power of uniting, and of having the proportion assessed on such proprietors spent on any particular work.
5. That after the primary assessment, the sessions should adjourn for a limited period; and that if any part of the money assessed upon the electoral division be not applied for by a proprietor for reproductive works before the re-assembling of the sessions, the same shall be applied in public works.
6. That the money to be expended under the amended Act, and also the money expended under Mr. Labouchere's letter, shall be repayable in the same manner as money advanced under the Million Act, in twenty-two annual instalments, to be collected by the quit-rent collectors.
7. That powers should be given to the Board of Works to advance money, by way of loan, to railway companies that have obtained their Acts; such money to be laid out in making the earth-works of the railway, and to be expended before the 1st of August, 1847.

At a subsequent meeting the committee determined on the issue of a second circular, containing their views in reference to the present supply of food. This document, it is said, will contain suggestions for the suspension of the navigation-laws, so far as to allow of the importation of food in foreign bottoms, the employment of men-of-war for the conveyance of food, and permission for Relief committees to sell provisions under cost price, or give food to the impotent poor:—

This committee desire to express their cordial approbation of the conduct of her Majesty's Government in reference to the benefits intended to be conferred upon this country by the Treasury minutes of the 1st instant; and they earnestly press upon the landed interests of Ireland the advantages they will gain by availing themselves of that concession. They are thereby enabled to borrow money without the necessity of making title to their properties, on the most advantageous terms, for all purposes of permanent improvement; which will increase the value of land. They are permitted to perform the works with labourers of their own choice, and without the expensive machinery which a labour-rate act of the best kind must involve. And the tendency of this minute (if it be properly carried out) is to accomplish one of the main objects of this committee, namely, to employ, without demoralising the labourer, and to rid the country of a burdensome taxation applied to unproductive works.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF has virtually begun in Ireland. The Dean of Achonry represented to the Commissary-General that it was absolutely impossible for many persons totally destitute to buy meal from the Government stores, even at the cost price; the local workhouse being full. Sir Randolph Routh replied, through his secretary, "that while the workhouse is full, gratuitous relief (by free tickets) for food may be given to the actually infirm poor who are destitute; but in all other cases the food provided should be sold at a price sufficient to repay the first cost with all charges, including £5 per cent for storing and selling."

The recent Treasury Minute has met with the unqualified approval of the Reproductive Committee; as will be seen by the terms of the resolution adopted at their meeting on Tuesday last.

The accounts from Ireland mention that very severe weather has set in; of course deplorably aggravating the distress.

We have before us a return, compiled and authenticated by the clergymen of this union, containing the names and residences of thirty-one human beings who have recently died of actual want.—*Castlebar Telegraph*.

THE GUN TRADE.—There has been a great deal of most mischievous misrepresentation on the subject of the purchase of fire-arms by the peasantry. It now appears, from the most authentic information, that the purchases have been made almost altogether by the gentry and farmers, from an apprehension of attempts at plunder by the destitute peasantry. This "gun trade" is, in fact, only another evidence of the terrible condition of the poor.—*Chronicle*.

FORECLOSURE OF MORTGAGES.—The Dublin correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle* denies the truth of the story, that 1,300 notices have been given for the foreclosure of mortgages:—"A legal friend of mine having examined the 'bill book' in Chancery, assures me that the number of bills for last term, including foreclosures of mortgages, was not larger than what it has been in the average of past years."

LORD MORPETH ON STATE EDUCATION.—At the meeting of the York and Ripon Diocesan Board of Education, on Tuesday, Lord Morpeth made some remarks on the subject of State education, which naturally attracted notice; but they will not be found to satisfy curiosity:—

Of course I feel, that in this place, and on this occasion, it will not be fitting in me to enter into any of those controverted questions which have excited public attention of late to a considerable extent, and which may be made the subject of discussion, and possibly of difference, in the Legislature. I will not encounter the topic as to how far the State ought to act, how far the State ought to move, or how far the State ought to stand aloof, with respect to the education of the people. I may, perhaps, without incurring the imputation of great rashness, venture to conjecture, that the fittest course to pursue would be, not that which is indicated by an extreme view on either side of the case. I think it certainly possible that the State may meddle too much; for, in dealing with such a question—as in the case of the dinner we are not to eat [referring to a dinner projected, but postponed in consequence of the state of the weather]—there is always the double risk of things being over-done and under-done [laughter and applause]. But I will certainly further venture to say, that with respect to the country at large, I am not satisfied with the exact state of things which prevails at present. I think there is a call for more schools than we have. I think there is a call for better schools than many of those we have. I think that many of our systems are still imperfect; that many of our masters are ill-qualified for their office, and almost all less well paid than we should wish to see. And speaking here, in the midst of this institution, and in this comely and suitable building, in which I am now glad to see it housed, I for one do not regret the assistance which has been conferred by the State in addition to local contributions and private munificence. But one thing I think is absolutely clear, and in stating it I may challenge contradiction: that whatever the State may do—whether it shall leave the work of education alone, or whether it shall proceed so far as the most venturesome interferences would wish—it is quite plain that there would still be much more left to be done; there would be still much more which private effort, private superintendence, private generosity, must always do the best, and will frequently alone be able to do.

SANITARY REFORMS.—At a meeting of the Health of Towns Association, on Wednesday—Lord Ashley presiding—Dr. Southwood Smith moved the appointment of a select committee to consider and report upon the provisions of Mr. Mackinnon's bill for the prevention of interment in large towns; and he laid before the meeting a correspondence between himself and Mr. Daniel Smith, a surgeon of Minchinhampton, developing the cause of an epidemic fever which had recently ravaged that town. Minchinhampton, containing about 800 inhabitants, is built on a considerable elevation, has good natural drainage, and has, till within the last two years, been proverbial for its healthiness. In 1844 many cases of fever occurred, having a uniform typhoid character. There were fewer in 1845; but, within the last two months, there have been upwards of 150, causing the greatest possible consternation among the residents. In 1843, the church, about five hundred years old, was rebuilt; a great portion of the churchyard was lowered and removed, many bodies being re-interred. An immense quantity of the earth was used as manure on pasture-land close to the town; but a large bank of it (estimated at 500 loads) remains within fifty yards of the town. Some of the earth removed was of an exceedingly dark colour. The street and rectory, both adjoining this mound, first suffered from the ravages of the fever. Ignorance on sanitary matters appears to have prevented the inhabitants, and among them the rector, from connecting the visitation with the presence of the noxious earth; indeed, the town is split into two parties on the question. The motion was agreed to unanimously, and a copy of the correspondence was ordered to be forwarded to Mr. Chadwick.

THE FLORES EXPEDITION AND ENGLISH RECRUITS.—At the Thames Police-office, on Wednesday, Captain Adderley Wilcocks Sleigh, formerly of the British Auxiliary Legion in Spain, was held to bail to answer a charge of having infringed the Foreign Enlistment Act. The evidence of George Wernham and Thomas Rillings went to prove that Captain Sleigh had engaged them to proceed to Ecuador as "emigrants," with an understanding that on their arrival they were to bear arms under General Flores. Wernham said that he had been regularly enlisted. Captain Sleigh remarked, towards the close of the proceedings, that he was not aware of having done anything unbecoming the character of a gentleman: he was anxious to go out with General Flores's expedition, "to keep his hand in." On the following day, Captain Sleigh attended in discharge of his bail; and the inquiry was continued. Several new witnesses confirmed the facts previously deposed to by Wernham and Rillings; and Captain Sleigh was again held to bail. While the recognizances were in progress, a Sheriff's-officer attempted to arrest Captain Sleigh for debt; but the magistrate would not allow the arrest to take place in court. Accordingly, by a dexterous manœuvre, the Captain got off through a back-door.

SYNOD OF VIRGINIA ON SLAVERY.

(From the *New York Evangelist*.)

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 23rd, 1846.—It is a coincidence that cannot fail to attract observation, and furnish matter of grave reflection, that the "friendly address from British Christians to the ministers and elders of the American Presbyterian Church, who bore a faithful testimony against slavery in the late General Assembly at Philadelphia," should be spread before the public almost simultaneously with the "action of the Synod of Virginia," in which the subject of slavery, as treated and disposed of by the General Assembly, is pronounced "wrong in principle, wrong in measure, and violent action upon a subject over-pressed." In the "address from British Christians," it is said, "Arduently do we desire your encouragement in your praiseworthy career; most sincerely do we appreciate your Christian testimony to the essential sinfulness of slaveholding." In another part, "We beseech you, dear brethren, to persevere in your righteous agitation, till the object be achieved. Cease not to expose the enormity of the crime of buying and selling a fellow-creature; of reducing a human being endowed with an immortal soul, to the level of an ox or an ass. Stand fast by that clause of your declaration which asserts that American slavery is intrinsically an unrighteous and oppressive system, opposed to the prescriptions of the law of God, to the spirit and precepts of the Gospel, and to the best interests of humanity."

In the action of the Synod of Virginia, it is said, "We are sorry to be compelled to say, that in our judgment no spirit of our day bears the stamp of fanaticism more broad and deep, than does the abolitionism of our times." In another part, "In our judgment, our abolition brethren should forthwith abandon their violent and dictatorial bearing. They possess no moral right to teach us. They have no moral power to carry out their counsels. The efforts of the abolitionist will but blind and beat back the minds he seeks to instruct and advance."

These paragraphs sufficiently indicate the whole tenor and spirit of the document sent forth by the Synod of Virginia. The fact that the late action of the General Assembly was the thing aimed at by the Synod, indicates, beyond mistake, their meaning of the term "abolitionism." It is the testimony borne against slavery, as "an unrighteous and oppressive system," against which they publish their protest. They say, "Though much disputed, various expressions in the resolutions of the Assembly clearly indicate the doctrine of the essential sinfulness of the relation between master and servant, while the general bearing of the resolutions as clearly establishes this interpretation." The question is thus pressed to an issue, not whether the great body of Christians at the north sanction the violent measures and vituperative denunciations of a few, who are represented as saying, "We have exhausted the argument with the slaveholder, and must now try the virtue of cold steel!" On this point there can be no mistake. Our southern brethren must know that the great mass of Christians in the non-slaveholding states give no countenance to the mad projects of a few who would "call down fire from heaven" upon those who will not submit to their dictation. Identity with them is not the question forced upon us by the action of the Synod of Virginia. But it is this—whether the mass of northern Christians will sustain the principles embodied in the declaration of the last Assembly on the subject of slavery. On this point there is not the slightest doubt; and it is but kindness and honesty to our southern brethren explicitly to say so. The Assembly would jeopard its very existence if it should take one retrograde step. They will never say less than that American slavery is "opposed to the prescriptions of the law of God, to the spirit and precepts of the gospel, and to the best interests of humanity."

Deeply do I regret the action of the Synod of Virginia. I fear its stupefying influence upon the conscience of slaveholders. A body of Christian ministers and elders ought not, by implication, to throw their influence into the scale of oppression. I know they intended no such thing; but their earnest remonstrance against the action of the Assembly, will, I fear, have this effect. Those who are determined to maintain the system of slavery will be encouraged in their efforts, by what they will claim to be the support of our good brethren of the Synod of Virginia. Apart from the raving of mad fanatics, there is a deep and growing conviction of the unutterable abominations of slavery, and an increasing determination not to rest till this foul blot is wiped away from the church, and a jubilee is proclaimed throughout the land. These are the views, the feelings, and the purposes of a great majority of the wisest and best men in the non-slaveholding States. Our brethren at the south ought to be apprised of this as settled, unchanging truth.

IMPORTANT ASTRONOMICAL DISCOVERY.—Towards the conclusion of a very interesting *séance* of the Royal Irish Academy, on Monday evening, Sir William Hamilton stated the probability—in his own mind it amounted almost to a certainty—that, by a certain mathematical process, which he stated, but which would be unintelligible to the general reader, of his having approached, if he did not actually hit, the central sun—the star round which the luminary of our own system, and his satellites, revolve. Should this be ascertained demonstratively, the discovery will be, certainly, the greatest achieved in the present century; although, during the period which has elapsed, six new planets have been detected, one of them attended by moons, and the last, probably, also, as well as Saturn encircled by a ring.—*Dublin Evening Post*.

THE DEPRESSION OF TRADE in the manufacturing districts continues. The only exception seems to be in Nottingham, where there has been some activity. The accounts from Manchester describe the breaking down of the cotton speculation, and the consequent recession of prices. The cotton crop is now believed to be larger than it was last year: some estimates giving 2,200,000 bales.

THE RELIGION OF CHILDREN.—IMPORTANT CASE.

In the Vice-Chancellor's Court, on Tuesday, proceedings "in the matter of North" came on before Vice-Chancellor Knight Bruce. The case involved a contest for the custody of infants.

The parties to the cause are the widow of Lieut. Dudley North on the one side, and his mother and sister on the other, and the contest is for the guardianship of the four children. The facts of the case are these:—The parents, originally members of the Church of England, had for some time before the father's death been in the habit of attending, along with two of their children, a Roman Catholic Chapel, but had not publicly professed the Catholic religion. The father died from the effects of a coach accident, and on his death-bed refused to receive the Protestant clergyman who had been brought to the house by one of his relations. The widow soon after became an avowed Roman Catholic, as she asserts on oath that, according to her belief, her husband, but for his untimely decease, would have done. The husband's relations got possession of the children by stratagem, and refused to restore them to their mother, placing them under the care of a maiden aunt. The mother sought legal redress; and the result is, that the Vice-Chancellor directs a reference to a master, to appoint a guardian or guardians, and decides that in the meantime the children shall remain in the custody of their paternal relations, the mother "to have access to them for two hours daily," but only in the presence of one or more of the said relations.

In his decision Vice-Chancellor Bruce intimates the right of the court to direct the children's religion, let the father's purpose be what it may:—

That it should view the religion of the children as a matter of indifference is, of course, quite out of the question. That no one can do. That the religion of the children should depend on the mere will and pleasure of the person or persons who may happen to be guardian or guardians—especially when there is no testamentary guardian—appears to me to be equally out of the case. As it is the duty of the court to superintend the education of infants in all cases where its powers are not excluded, so especially, and most importantly, it is the duty of the court to superintend that course of religious education in which the children ought, until they are of years of discretion, and able and think fit to choose for themselves, to be educated.

Not only, therefore, when there is not, but when there is, a lawful guardian, the court will not permit the religion of the children to depend on the guardian's decision, but will make it depend on the court's pleasure.

On Wednesday an application was made to the Lord Chancellor on behalf of Mrs. North, to discharge the Vice-Chancellor's order. After hearing arguments on both sides, the Lord Chancellor expressed a strong opinion that the order could not be supported, inasmuch as no return had been made to the *habeas*. His lordship thought that a court of common law would not suspend the return to a writ of *habeas*, because a petition of this nature had been presented to a court of equity. An arrangement was ultimately made between the parties, with the assent of the mother, that she should have unlimited access to her children during the holidays; the argument to stand over till the first day of next term.

The case has two stages yet to go through. The Master has to report; and his report, when made, must receive the sanction of the Court, from which, if the present temporary decision is made a permanent one, the case will probably be carried by appeal to the Lord Chancellor, and brought under the attention of the public and of Parliament.

FREE CHURCH ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.—On Wednesday evening the Rev. James M'Beth, of Glasgow, delivered the second of a series of lectures on slavery, in the Waterloo-rooms, under the auspices of the Free Church Anti-slavery Society. The subject of the lecture was an examination of the arguments which have been adduced in defence of communion with slaveholders. The rev. gentleman declared his intention to discuss the subject mildly and argumentatively, and disclaimed all design of giving offence to those of his Free Church brethren who differed from him on this subject. Archdeacon Williams moved the thanks of the meeting to Mr. M'Beth, for the admirable, logical, and convincing discourse which he had delivered. He had heard the very same arguments as logically, as distinctly, and as powerfully stated by Mr. M'Beth in the General Assembly of the Free Church, but no applause, no sympathy greeted their delivery. He was assured, by a prophetic power which could not mislead, that in five years hence not a Free Churchman would dare to address a meeting, in respectability and numbers like the present, and say that an American slaveholder ought to be acknowledged as a Christian by any man who called himself a Christian. He did not mean to give any offence, but he knew that the leaders of the Free Church had got into a scrape, and how they were to get out of it he did not know [hisses and cheers, which continued for some time]. The meeting then broke up.—*Scotsman*. [At a public meeting held in the City-hall, Perth, on Monday evening week, and attended by about eight hundred persons, an anti-slavery society was formed. A kindred society is to be formed in Glasgow.]

IRISH RAILWAYS.—An aggregate deputation of Irish railway directors had an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Wednesday, to urge a claim for Government aid. Eleven Irish railway companies were incorporated in 1845, twenty-one in 1846: what the deputation asked from Government was, an advance not exceeding thirty per cent. on the gross capital, viz., £4,890,000. The sum to be thus distributed in point of time—in 1847, £1,250,000; in 1847-8, £1,000,000 on the incorporated companies of 1845, and in 1847-8, £1,320,000; in 1848-9, £1,320,000 on the incorporated companies of 1846. During the same period, the sum total to be paid up by shareholders was estimated at £9,910,000. After a long and animated conversation, Mr. Charles Wood assured the deputation, that their statements should receive the most attentive consideration of the Government.

GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND.

The daily papers publish a despatch containing the instructions of Earl Grey to Captain Grey, Governor of New Zealand, respecting the future government of that colony. This despatch is accompanied by a copy of the New Zealand charter. It repeals the charter of 1840, and creates the powers, municipal, legislative, and administrative, which the act of Parliament authorises the Queen to create. To the Governor-General is left to decide at what time the new charter shall be promulgated and brought into operation. The second document consists of instructions to which the charter refers.

The main features of the future New Zealand constitution are briefly as follows:—It is to be a modified form of Federalism. The whole colony is to be divided into two or more provinces; each to be provided with a governor and a lieutenant-governor, and each supplying Crown influence to the extent of two pieces of patronage. As its second estate, each province is to have a Legislative Council, and the Legislative Council will be nominated by the Crown. As its third estate, each province is to have a House of Representatives. This is to form the popular element of the constitution, and to embody the doctrine of self-government. In the choice of representatives, the principle applied is that of double election. A common council is to elect the representative; the borough is to elect the common council. The formation of boroughs involves a survey of the colony, a registration of its lands, and a division of the whole country into municipal districts. A Governor-in-chief, a Legislative Council of the General Assembly, and a House of Representatives for the General Assembly, will be paramount to the provincial legislations (or assemblies) in the way that an American Congress is paramount to the legislations of the States. The powers of the Crown to those of the people are as two to one. All the subordinate appointments are to be made by the Colonial authorities.

With regard to the relations of settlers and natives, it is determined that the price of land is to vary with the character of the locality, and to consist of four different amounts. For the town districts, one price; for the suburban districts, another; for the rural ones, a third. Add to this a fourth valuation, when the area is supposed to contain minerals.

THE GREAT BRITAIN.—A report from Mr. Brunel, the engineer, on the state of the Great Britain steam-ship, has been printed for circulation amongst the proprietors. It corrects many erroneous statements that have been put forth. Mr. Brunel, who has lately been to Dundrum Bay, says that he was agreeably disappointed, after the reports which had reached him, to find her, as a whole, and independently of the mere local damages, perfectly sound, and as strong and as perfect in form as the day she was launched. He strongly recommends that she should be protected from the sea, and left where she is for the next three months, when she may be worth £40,000 or £50,000 unrepaid. No fixed break-water could be constructed at any reasonable expense, but he thinks an inexpensive mode of preserving the vessel would be to form under the stern and along the exposed side a mass of fagots, secured with rods run vertically through the mass, and chains laid horizontally, and binding the whole tightly to the ship. "The heaviest sea has no effect upon such a mass; and I believe the vessel would remain as uninjured, and indeed as unaffected by the sea, as if in dock." He recommends that immediate steps should be taken to secure the vessel from further injury; and plans for getting her off discussed at leisure. As to raising her, he thinks, that the safe mode of proceeding, and by far the cheapest, will be to lift the vessel by mechanical means—to lay ways under her—and to haul her up sufficiently far to be safe from the sea to repair her; just sufficiently to make her water-tight, then to launch and bring her to Liverpool or Bristol.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—On Tuesday evening last, the fifth of a course of twelve lectures to young men was delivered in the Centenary-hall, Bishopsgate-street, by the Rev. Dr. Cumming. There were upwards of 1,200 present. The topic selected was the History and Influence of Literature. The lecturer opened the subject by calling attention to the distinction which exists between physical science and literature. With a subject so great and ramified, he could give little more than a hasty sketch, which was done by showing the origin and progress of literature, introducing the works of the master spirits among the ancients, and showing their respective merits with the literary giants of more recent date. The lecture was replete with instruction to those especially who have been deprived of the pleasures and knowledge of classic lore. It was concluded by a fine contrast of the ennobling pursuit of knowledge and truth with the debasing and the sensual.

RAJAH OF SATTARA.—A meeting was held on Monday evening last, in the Commercial-hall, Chelsea, in the progress of the agitation on foot for obtaining for the dethroned Rajah of Sattara the redress of his wrongs. The chair was filled by H. J. Brown, Esq. The rajah's native agent, Rungoo Bapjee, submitted a statement of the case, which was read on his behalf. Mr. George Thompson then went into a lengthened and elaborate examination of the *ex-parte* evidence in the matter, and urged the justice of an inquiry, which would afford the rajah what he had not hitherto enjoyed—a hearing in his own defence. A resolution, recommending the restoration of the ex-rajah, and the reparation of the wrongs inflicted on him by the British Government, was submitted by A. W. Hoggins, Esq., barrister, seconded by James Lewis, Esq., of Essex-street, solicitor, and supported by Dr. Gaskill, of Chelsea. It was carried unanimously. A petition to Parliament on the subject was afterwards proposed and carried.

PUBLIC PARKS.—A meeting was held in the Town-hall at Oldham on Monday week, in compliance with a requisition signed by two hundred and twenty persons, comprising many of the neighbouring magistrates, gentry, and clergy, to consider the proper steps for forming parks and places of recreation. Government have already granted £1,000 towards this object.

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, December 30th.

UNITED STATES.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

By the arrival of the Ashburton, Captain Howland, yesterday evening at Liverpool, we have been placed in possession of New York papers to the 9th instant. The President's message, delivered on the 7th inst, is the main feature of interest. It occupies nine and a half columns of the *Morning Chronicle*. We can, therefore, give but a very imperfect summary of its contents. It enters into an elaborate defence of the war with Mexico and the annexation of Texas. The former, it says, was originated by a long series of wrongs sustained by the United States ever since Mexico became an independent state. The patient endurance with which they were borne are, Mr. Polk says, without a parallel in the history of modern civilised nations. After giving minute details of the progress of the war, and praising the bravery of the United States' military and naval forces, Mr. Polk confesses that Santa Anna was allowed to return to Mexico with the connivance of the American Government:—

It remains to be seen whether Santa Anna's return may not yet prove to be favourable to a pacific adjustment of the existing difficulties, it being manifestly his interest not to persevere in the prosecution of a war commenced by Paredes, to accomplish a purpose so absurd as the reconquest of Texas to the Sabine. . . . In less than seven months after Mexico commenced hostilities, at a time selected by herself, we have taken possession of many of her principal ports, driven back and pursued her invading army, and acquired military possession of the Mexican provinces of New Mexico, New Leon, Coahuila, Tamaulipas, and the Californias, a territory larger in extent than the one embraced in the original thirteen states of the Union, inhabited by a considerable population, and much of it more than a thousand miles from the points at which we had to collect our forces and commence our movements. The war has not been waged with a view to conquest; but having been commenced by Mexico, it has been carried into the enemy's country, and will be vigorously prosecuted there, with a view to obtain an honourable peace, and thereby secure ample indemnity for the expenses of the war, as well as to our much-injured citizens, who hold large pecuniary demands against Mexico.

The message says that another loan for the expenses of the war will be required:—

If the war should be continued until the 30th of June, 1848—being the end of the next fiscal year—it is estimated that an additional loan of twenty-three millions of dollars will be required. This estimate is made upon the assumption, that it will be necessary to retain constantly in the treasury four millions of dollars, to guard against contingencies. If such surplus were not required to be retained, then a loan of nineteen millions of dollars would be sufficient. If, however, Congress should, at the present session, impose a revenue on the principal articles now embraced in the free list, it is estimated that an additional annual revenue of about two millions and a half—amounting, it is estimated, on the 30th of June, 1848, to four millions of dollars—would be derived from that source; and the loan required would be reduced by that amount.

Mr. Polk recommends that Congress should immediately provide by law for the trial and punishment, as pirates, of Spanish subjects who, escaping the vigilance of their Government, shall be found guilty of privateering against the United States; and immediately provide by law for granting letters of marque and reprisal against vessels under the Mexican flag. He enters into a long argument in favour of free-trade, and the benefits derived from a relaxation of protective duties by the United States and Great Britain, and deprecates any interference with the tariff until it has had a fair trial. In December last, it was submitted whether it might not be proper, as a war measure, to impose revenue duties on some of the articles now embraced in the free list. Should it be deemed proper to impose such duties, with a view to raise revenue to meet the expenses of the war with Mexico, or to avoid, to that extent, the creation of a public debt, they may be repealed when the emergency which gave rise to them shall cease to exist, and constitute no part of the permanent policy of the country. The remainder of the message is occupied with subjects of no great interest to this country.

By this arrival we have also important news from Mexico. General Wool took peaceable possession of Monclova on the 30th of October. News received at Monclova, on the 2nd of November, that Colonel Doniphan, of General Kearney's Santa Fé division, had taken the city of Chihuahua, with his command, numbering 700 men, without resistance. General Taylor, on the arrival of despatches from his Government, ordering the discontinuance of the armistice, despatched Major Graham to Saltillo, to confer with the Mexican camp, and inform them of the fact. The *New Orleans Picayune* says:—"It was also rumoured at Camargo, on the 7th November, that another revolution had broken out in Mexico, and that the Santa Anna party had declared him Dictator. The partisans of Santa Anna, headed by General Valencia, demurred at the Dictatorship, and drove him and his over-zealous friends from San Luis Potosi. General Taylor and his staff, accompanied by General Worth and his brigade, started on the morning of the 15th from Monterey, to make a reconnaissance, with a view of taking Saltillo, which is, no doubt, ere this, in our possession. General Patterson had left Camargo, with about 2,000 men, en route for Tampico. The information from San Luis Potosi is, that it is admirably fortified, an abundance of ordnance and ammunition. Santa Anna is there, with a force of 16,000 men, which will be increased to 30,000. It is the opinion of the best-informed officers that at this place there will be a desperate and bloody conflict."

IRELAND.

EMIGRATION IN MID-WINTER.—The details of destitution, which I have condensed from the provincial journals received to-day, are most heart-rending. There are several more deaths from starvation in the western counties. Emigration is still in progress from the port

of Sligo, even in the depth of a most severe winter! In one of the subjoined extracts it is stated that more than three thousand persons have left that port for America since October last. All accounts concur in stating that great numbers of small farmers—as many, at least, as can scrape up the means—are making arrangements to emigrate early in spring by the many vessels which are expected to return to America after discharging their cargoes of Indian meal.—*Correspondent of the Chronicle*.

APPALLING DISTRESS.—We entreat our readers' attention to the following shocking description of the state of Skibbereen, and the surrounding district of West Carbery, in the county of Cork, premising, that it is only an aggravated epitome of the sufferings of the poor starving peasantry in other districts. It is by Mr. Cummins, a county magistrate, who thus writes to the Duke of Wellington:—

I went on the 15th instant to Skibbereen, and to give the instance of one townland which I visited, as an example of the state of the entire coast district, I shall state simply what I there saw. It is situated on the eastern side of Castletown harbour, and is named South Reen, in the parish of Myross. Being aware that I should have to witness frightful hunger, I provided myself with as much bread as five men could carry, and on reaching the spot I was surprised to find the wretched hamlet apparently deserted. I entered some of the hovels to ascertain the cause, and the scenes that presented themselves were such as no tongue or pen can convey the slightest idea of. In the first, six famished and ghastly skeletons, to all appearance dead, were huddled in a corner on some filthy straw, their sole covering what seemed a ragged horse cloth, their wretched legs hanging about, naked above the knees. I approached in horror, and found, by a low moaning, they were alive—they were in fever, four children, a woman, and what had once been a man. It is impossible to go through the detail; suffice it to say, that, in a few minutes, I was surrounded by at least 200 of such phantoms—such frightful spectres as no words can describe. By far the greater number were delirious, either from famine or from fever. Their demoniac yells are still ringing in my ears, and their horrible images are fixed upon my brain. My heart sickens at the recital, but I must go on.

In another case, decency would forbid what follows, but it must be told. My clothes were nearly torn off in my endeavour to escape from the throng of pestilence around, when my neckcloth was seized from behind by a grip which compelled me to turn. I found myself grasped by a woman with an infant apparently just born in her arms, and the remains of a filthy sack across her loins—the sole covering of herself and babe. The same morning the police opened a house on the adjoining lands, which was observed shut for many days, and two frozen corpses were found, lying upon the mud floor, half devoured by the rats.

A mother, herself in fever, was seen the same day to drag out the corpse of her child, a girl about twelve, perfectly naked, and leave it half covered with stones. In another house, within 500 yards of the cavalry station at Skibbereen, the Dispensary Doctor found seven wretches lying unable to move, under the same cloak. One had been dead many hours, but the others were unable to move either themselves or the corpse.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—The "rump" of this body met as usual on Monday at Conciliation-hall. The Hon. Cecil Lawless was called to the chair. The rent for the week was £57 7s. 4d. The proceedings being more than ordinarily silly, it is not necessary to encumber your columns with even an outline of the vapid nonsense which occupied two hours of time that might have been easily devoted to some more useful purpose than that of mere speech-making, at a crisis like the present. Tastes, however, differ; and the Burgh-quay orators are of course entitled to hold a contrary belief.—*Times' Correspondent*.

GAME-LAWS.—The Anti-Game-law Association of East Lothian has offered a prize of twenty guineas for the best essay on the evils of the Game-laws.

THE NEW BISHOPRIC OF MANCHESTER.—The Warden and Fellows of the Collegiate church of Manchester are to be constituted dean and chapter, and the see of Manchester will be in the province of York. Mr. Murray, of Chancery-lane, has been appointed registrar of the new diocese. The annual income of the bishop has been fixed at £4,500 per annum.

MR. CORDEN has left for Italy. During his short stay he was visited by all the principal persons of Barcelona. The papers also noticed his sojourn in flattering terms, only remarking that, if it cost that gentleman so much exertion and time to convince, after a manner, the enlightened English gentry to give up their monopoly, he should not be surprised that the rude Catalonian manufacturer was so anxious to preserve his.—*Times' Barcelona Correspondent*.

The Nuremberg Correspondent states that Austria and Prussia had positively refused to refer the question of the suppression of Cracow to the examination and decision of a European Congress.

Upwards of 1,500 letters are daily received at the office of the Board of Works in Dublin.

MOST REMARKABLE OCCURRENCE.—On Monday last, a person at Blackpool, on opening a large cod-fish, found, as one portion of the contents of the stomach, a soda-water bottle, firmly corked, and his curiosity being excited, the weight of the bottle leading him to suppose that it was empty, he drew the cork, and perceived a piece of paper, which he endeavoured to extract; but finding that impossible, he broke the bottle, and found that it had been thrown overboard from the Wisdom, Captain Cobbett, on her passage from Sydney to Liverpool. The document had been written by a Mr. Kenny, a passenger, was dated March 27th, 1845, and stated that they had then had a very heavy gale of wind three days, the ship had sprung a leak, the pumps were choked, and they had had several of their hands washed overboard; and it was to communicate these particulars that he had written the paper, in hope that, the bottle being washed ashore, the facts might be communicated to some newspaper for publication. We think that it is almost the first time that intelligence of the kind has been obtained in so miraculous a manner. We should be glad to be advised of the fact whether the Wisdom outrode the storm.—*Preston Pilot*.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour.
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The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30, 1846.

SUMMARY.

THE most prominent feature of the week's intelligence is the increasing destitution of the poorer classes. Starvation and disease are making their painful but silent progress not only amongst the native population of Ireland and the Highlands, but even in the great metropolis. It is a dismal picture, calculated to extinguish those joyous feelings which the season is adapted to inspire. The heart sickens at the harrowing details which are daily furnished by the press of the misery and destitution of our poorer fellow-subjects. We are glad, however, to find that the sympathy of the British public is not likely to be confined to words. Efforts are making in various quarters to respond, in the most effectual way, to the cry for assistance which reaches us from so many quarters. Amongst the foremost in the work of benevolence—as in every object to promote the welfare of their kind—has been the Society of Friends. A committee has been formed, including the names of Sturge, Gurney, Fox, Foster, &c.—gentlemen are now engaged upon a mission to Ireland to take prompt measures for alleviating the existing distress—and a liberal subscription commenced, which it is hoped will amount to £20,000. This is a noble example, which we trust will be emulated by all denominations. Here we find an example of true benevolence, not merely in the giving of pecuniary assistance, but inducing men of affluent circumstances to sacrifice their own ease and comfort, to devote their time and energies to seek out and relieve the helpless and destitute at their own doors. We are rejoiced to learn that in some towns of England public meetings are to be held for raising subscriptions—that in others, liberal contributions have been made by religious bodies—and that the appeals put forth by societies which have stations in Ireland, have been generally responded to. Yet, how much more requires to be done to meet the fearful emergency! Every day adds to the fearful catalogue of the victims of starvation and disease. Government is doing its best to provide employment for those who can earn a precarious livelihood. But the thousands of poor, incapacitated by sex, age, or infirmity, from availing themselves of this assistance, are beyond their reach. From the accounts received from the sister kingdom, nothing can be gleaned which would lead to the inference, that the enormous outlay of half a million sterling of the public money has tended materially to check the prevailing and increasing destitution. North, south, east, and west, the reports tell the same gloomy story. Humanity and religion alike call upon us to take instant measures for checking the progress of famine and suffering. All can surely render some assistance to our starving countrymen. Each one can, by making some slight sacrifice—by denying himself some unnecessary superfluity—lend a helping hand; and we trust that none will feel himself at liberty to enjoy the abundance of the season, without first having discharged this imperative obligation. "It is more blessed to give than to receive," is a Divine maxim which all will abstractedly admit; and which, at the present juncture, all will, we trust, feel rejoiced to realise for themselves. There are now numerous channels through which the liberality of the benevolent may flow, without any risk of its being misapplied.

The intelligence from Ireland contains two gratifying exceptions to the general sombre aspect of affairs. The supposed arming of the peasantry turns out to be grossly exaggerated. The purchase of fire-arms has been made chiefly, if not wholly, by the farmers and proprietors of lands, for the protection of themselves and property. The other pleasing circumstance is the formation of a committee of landlords, to consult and advise with Government as to the measures to be adopted for the permanent relief of the country. They have set about the task with much more energy and moderation than could have been expected. This is their true policy, and we hope they will cordially co-operate with ministers in carrying into effect those remedial measures upon which their own safety, equally with that of the country, depends.

Our columns, both of the present and of last week, contain gratifying proofs of the cordial reception given to the deputation from the British Anti-state-church Association by the Voluntaries of Scotland. Public meetings have been held in most of the principal towns of the north, at which the invitation to assist in promoting the agitation against all ecclesiastical establishments has been heartily responded to. We anticipate great good will result from this appeal to our Scotch friends. The example thus set by the Dissenters of Scotland, in uniting to express their unwavering opposition to State-churches, and the necessity of adopting vigorous measures for enlisting public opinion on behalf of the anti-state-church agitation, will, we trust, exert its due influence upon the Nonconformists of England, who still hold back from the movement.

THE YEAR 1846.

BEFORE our paper has reached the hands of the great majority of our readers, one of the most remarkable years in the political annals of Great Britain will have ceased to be. Eighteen hundred and forty-six will long be remembered as specially distinguished among his compeers. Within a few hours of his term of existence, we bid him a respectful farewell. The legacy of social change which he leaves behind him commends him to our sympathies, and prompts us to part with him, as with an old friend, who has done us important service. Be his memory fresh and kindly! and let us, as becomes us, consign him to the sepulchre of the past with grateful and honourable remembrances! As he passes from our midst we are more than half inclined to heave forth a sigh, and exclaim—

—“Take him for all in all,
We ne'er shall look upon his like again.”

There is no difficulty in summing up the events of 1846. They fall into two or three distinct and striking groups, which stand out in bold relief from the canvas of time. Free-trade—Ireland—the disruption of political parties:—under these heads we may range almost all that has been memorable in the year now verging upon the termination of its course.

First in order—possibly, also, in importance—is the legislative triumph of free-trade principles. One is at a loss which to admire most—the manner in which this great social revolution was effected, or the magnitude of those results which may be ultimately anticipated from it. By a man selected as the champion of monopoly—by a parliament returned expressly to retain it in all its integrity—by a sudden and unprecedented agreement of all persons pretending to statesmanship—in the absence of all popular clamour—with the tacit consent of a vast section of the agricultural party, and almost with their approval—after three months' dispassionate discussion, conducted with prevailing good temper and marvellous ability—quietly, peacefully, and once for all, the commercial restrictions under which trade had groaned for so long a period were legislatively abolished. We have already, and more than once, placed on record our view of the causes, the unexpected combination of which conducted to this glorious issue. It needs not that we should stop to point them out anew. We have now to deal with actual events—and we venture to predict that ere the lapse of many years, the repeal of the corn and provision laws, the large modification of the tariff, and the final destruction of the West Indian monopoly, will be looked back upon by all parties, and all classes, as the most unquestionable blessing which the present age has witnessed. It is impossible to conjecture, with any claim to accuracy, the ultimate result of this splendid achievement. Already it bids fair to undo the galling yoke beneath which most European nations have fretted in vain, and to link together in one bond of beneficial intercourse, countries heretofore breathing against each other little else than hostility and defiance. The influence of our example is already telling with wonderful effect upon the Continent. From 1846 the civilized world will have to date the commencement of a new era of social progress. Feudalism has become old, and is ready to vanish away. The arts of peace are displacing the arts of war—and mind is gradually assuming, here and elsewhere, its rightful ascendancy over matter.

Next in prominence, but presenting a startling contrast to that which has just received a passing notice, stands the group of events affecting the destinies of Ireland. They divide themselves into two sections, legislative and providential. On the one hand, the year 1846 has demonstrated the futility and impracticability, for all time to come, of the attempt to govern a turbulent, because half-famished, population by coercive measures; on the other, the peddling application of mere palliatives in relief of Ireland's social misery has been abruptly cut short by the severely-merciful destruction of her staple article of subsistence. In the universal confusion and scramble brought about by the wide prevalence of the potato-blight, it may be difficult to recognise the germ of a better order of things for that hitherto ill-fated country. But, to cool observation and keen-eyed faith a ray of light already streams athwart the darkness. Ireland has been suddenly plunged into a depth of wretchedness so awful that she can no longer be neglected or made the plaything of political factions. At last measures must needs be propounded for her relief and government, which have other and stronger recommendations than their adaptation to promote the views and interests of party. Her very existence is now threatened; and woe be to the statesman who dares to trifle with her, in this perilous crisis of her affairs! Millions clamouring to be fed, and whom the necessities of the case prevent our aristocracy from putting off with the lowest diet upon which human life can be sustained, will create a new problem for solution by modern statesmanship. And modern statesmanship must give itself to the task in sober earnest. There is, consequently, hope for Ireland—and the awful destitution to which an unforeseen calamity has reduced her during the past year, will in all probability prove the crisis of her disease, and will usher in for her brighter times, and a period of just legislation.

We come now to the disruption of political parties. This, also, is a characteristic of the year 1846. If party be properly described as “the madness of the many for the benefit of the few,” none of us will have reason to regret that, in working out the triumph of free-trade principles, Sir Robert Peel utterly spoiled

the instrument by which our statesmen have heretofore been enabled to resist the reasonable demands of the people. Coalitions, combinations, intrigues, deluding professions, and unmeaning war-cries, have become all but useless. They will serve the turn of faction no longer. Attention is now directed, not to men, but to measures—not to what statesmen say, but to what they do. Tories, Whigs, Radicals—Reforming Conservatives, Conservative Reformers—obstructives and destructives—all, considered as political parties, are regarded very much in the same light. None of them can claim, in virtue of their strength or numbers, the exclusive administration of public affairs. They are all at sixes and sevens. Their power and skill to marshal their followers, and, by dint of union and energy, to force their ideas of government upon the community, have been paralysed by the course recently taken by Sir Robert Peel. The day for ruling Great Britain by party has come to an end—and eighteen hundred and forty-six will be pointed out by posterity as the year in which legislative factions received their final *quietus*.

The dawn of another year is at hand. What its day will bring forth it would be vain to conjecture. The stage is clear. Duty is always the same. Without misgivings, without sanguine expectations, knowing what is required of us, and resolved to obey the promptings of conscience, let us bid adieu to the past, and welcome the advent of the future! To those who are always at their post, it can matter but little that they are unable to penetrate the mist which surrounds the morrow. They know that events are under the control of unerring wisdom and unfailing goodness, and they can rejoice in unfaltering hope that He will conduct society, by whatever path, to those heights of peace, liberty, truth, and happiness, for which he has evidently predestined it.

THE AGENCY OF DIPLOMATISTS.

DIPLOMACY, no doubt, has its uses. Confined to a proper sphere, and to legitimate objects, it may “do the state some service.” Its province, however, is more to declare than to decree—to define relations which, left undecided, might lead to controversy—to give distinctness to certain ideas and customs already more or less admitted and existing—and to substitute the convenience of order and certainty for confusion, doubt, and obscurity. But this is a duty far too humble and useful for an agent which aims at the supreme disposal of events. The objects and career it desires are much loftier and more brilliant. It would redress all wrongs, settle all disputes, order all events, and provide for all contingencies. But as its power and pretensions bear no sort of comparison, its success is generally about as Quixotic as its aim. A more unsatisfactory pursuit can hardly be imagined; not so much because the means are usually imprudent, as because the end is usually impracticable. Diplomacy has to work out impossibilities. It has to sustain decaying states, to establish tottering empires, to strengthen imbecile dynasties, and to buoy up nations whose “alacrity in sinking” is their chief characteristic. It is in perpetual contest with natural causes, and has always some end in view different from that which must inevitably result from the action of another and more powerful agency. Its efforts are mostly unnecessary or insane—blind endeavours to avoid or achieve impossible events—constant struggles with “circumstances over which it has no control.” It enters into the contest with Providence under immense disadvantages, being neither righteous, omniscient, nor omnipotent—three qualities which at least it must possess before its ability will equal its ambition. Accordingly, the history of diplomacy is a continued record of foolish enterprises and ridiculous failures. Every year, nay, almost every month, supplies some illustration of the futility of its plans, and the worthlessness of its treaties. We have just seen two remarkable instances of the uselessness of diplomatic compacts and arrangements. The treaties of Utrecht and Vienna were, in their day, famous settlements of that sublime delusion, “the balance of power.” Both were consequent on long, bloody, and ruinous wars, productive of much glory, and more debt. One of the principal stipulations of the first-named treaty was, that the Crowns of France and Spain should never be united in the same person. During the late Montpensier negotiation, Louis Philippe showed how disposed he was to break the compact, if an opportunity offered, in refusing to repeat the stipulation, when, by a remote possibility, the two Crowns might have been united; and, on the other hand, Lord Palmerston showed how diplomatists may be frightened at shadows, and disquiet themselves in vain when he fumed, protested, and sulked at a contingency, which we are now informed is almost certain to be prevented by a very simple, natural, and “happy event.” By the treaty of Vienna, Cracow was declared a free city, and Poland an independent nation. We have seen both incorporated by the respective states under whose “protection” they were placed. We are not going to declaim on the subject of unhappy Poland. We think a good deal of sympathy has been wasted on it, and we advise its more sentimental advocates to read its history. There never was, properly speaking, a Polish people or a Polish monarchy, but only a vile, wretched, and turbulent oligarchy, characterised by the blackest perfidy to their kings and the most horrible cruelty to their serfs; making the country, for centuries, a scene of anarchy, confusion, and crime; until, at last, they filled up the measure of their iniquity, and received a just and necessary retribution.

"And for that they were rich and robbed the poor,
And for that they were strong and crushed the weak,
And for that they made laws, which turned the sweat
Of labour's brow to blood; for these their crimes
The nations cast them off."

If ever a country merited destruction, Poland did. But while our sentiments in reference to Poland are more in accordance with history than poetry, we are no apologists of the kingly perfidy which has denationalised that country. We think the transaction perfectly disgraceful to all parties concerned; and sooner or later, we doubt not, the consequences of their immorality will recoil upon themselves. What we wish to show, is the utter incapacity of diplomatic arts to vivify nations out of which all virtue and vitality have departed, and the entire worthlessness of treaties to bind contracting parties whose power and interest prompt them to disregard their obligations.

We said that diplomacy, in its proper sphere, might be beneficial. It is, however, a relic of aristocratic rule and government with which we have little sympathy; and we should be loath to trust any cause in hands so intolerably officious, and which so seldom meddle but to mar. We have no faith in its power, and not much in its prudence. With pretensions so arrogant, instruments so futile, intelligence so mean, and enterprises so foolish, it is an agent we can scarcely recommend. Others, with more confidence in its wisdom and ability, may seek its good offices; we can only deplore the desperate exigency of a cause which has to seek aid from a Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

JUSTICE BEFORE GENEROSITY.

WHEN asked to endow the people with political power, it has been the unvarying practice of the ruling classes to rummage history for cases in which the masses have misbehaved themselves. Open your mouth to eulogise the happiness flowing from an equal distribution of political power, and immediately an attempt is made to silence you with the bloody deeds of the French Revolution. Assert the universal justice of democracy, and they fetch a damper for your eloquence from the slave-states of America.

Now we are not going to object to this. It is very natural and very proper, and we are always ready to look these bugbears in the face, and prove their phantasmal character as best we may—a task by no means difficult. All we have to say to such arguments is this—that if they are fair on the one side, they are equally so on the other—that when rulers seek for more power they also must expect to have their deserts tested by a catechetical inquiry in their past deeds—and, that they must not grumble if their bygone sins are raked up, and held to their nostrils. With this preliminary, we introduce a working-man's address to the governing class, *in re* State Education.

"You, Messieurs, the law-makers, have, as I hear, been lately, from time to time, giving eloquent utterance to your lamentations over the state of the people. I find that 'the elevation of the masses' is just now a fashionable topic amongst you, for after-dinner speeches. The newspapers contain accounts of your munificence to the peasantry; efforts are made in Parliament to shorten our labour by law; societies are established to prevent you any longer calling us 'the great unwashed'; in a word, the press, the platform, and (the pulpit, I was going to say, but, although the alliteration is tempting, my conscience won't let me)—teem with schemes for our benefit. Mixed up with much cant, and a great deal of false philosophy, there is no doubt in all these things some good. I read, however, that the evil of evils is popular ignorance—that its only remedy is State education—and that, unless that remedy is immediately administered, we are in danger of social disorganisation. Strange that the discovery was not made fifty years ago, when the evil was so much more palpable! But this by the way.

"Now, being somewhat of a timid disposition, and having, in the course of my life, seen many schemes, especially political ones, turn out very differently from what was expected; and, moreover, not seeing the great advantage of paying the tax-gatherer for the education of my children, rather than paying the schoolmaster direct (for it all comes to one in the end); I have lately been asking history how you upper classes would be likely to manage this State education. The reply has done anything but calm my fears. I was told there had already been institutions for the instruction of the poor, which had been invariably diverted from their legitimate purpose—that out of the many public schools founded in old times by the philanthropic, for the benefit of the people, not one but had been, by cruel avarice, wrested from them, and the sons of the needy shouldered aside by the sons of the rich. Your ancestors, gluttoned though they were with the fat of the land, could yet be so insatiably greedy, so inconceivably mean, as to clutch the trifling educational legacy bequeathed by Benevolence to Poverty. Not content with countless flocks and herds, they yet coveted the poor man's solitary ewe lamb, and never rested till they possessed it. Oh, that there had been a Nathan to open their eyes!

"But, if these deeds—though palliated by the consideration that they were the growths of comparatively barbarous days—excited my disgust, judge my feelings upon finding the like doings continued in this philanthropic England of ours to the present day. Nay, more; that some of the very men who are loudest in their commiserations of poverty—who protest most strongly against the long hours of the factory—

who reward aged industry with 'a coat and 10s. 6d.'—and who utter the deepest groans over popular ignorance—are the perpetrators! Yes, gentlemen, for those Latin and Greek quotations wherewith you ornament your orations, you are indebted to institutions provided for the poor. The knowledge that was to have flowed from Eton, Westminster, Winchester, Rugby, Charterhouse, and the rest, to the working classes, you have dammed up for your own use. And for our ignorance we may, in a measure, thank you, since you have intercepted all the lights that were to have dispelled it. Do you not blush when you think of this? Can you, looking us in the face, give utterance to those eloquent aspirations for our enlightenment, and not be struck dumb by the thought, that, but for your class and its ancestors, we should not have stood in such need of it? Recollecting that the existing institutions for our enlightenment have been perverted to your own benefit, how is it that you can hold forth upon the desirableness of new ones without stammering?

"By all means wash your hands of these abominations. Before saying another word upon the necessity of new instrumentalities for the diffusion of knowledge, restore those you have confiscated. If you are really so zealous for our welfare, you surely cannot continue to pick our pockets. The least you can do, is to give us some earnest of your sincerity by being honest. You can never remedy the evils your ancestors inflicted upon us; but, at any rate, make all the amends in your power by restoring us our property. We are not universally satisfied with this scheme of State education, but we shall none of us quarrel with you for giving us back our own. Until you do this, however, I, for one, shall look upon these attractive schemes of yours with suspicion. I shall distrust your fine speeches. Wrapped up in these honey-worded expressions, I shall look for a deadly purpose. Judging by the doings of continental despots, I shall conceive some subtle policy to be at the bottom of this sudden exhibition of sympathy; and for 'national education' I shall read 'national subjection.' In a word, until you have shown me that you are just, I shall close my ears to your professions of generosity.

"Last week I gave my little boy, Billy, sixpence for a Christmas-box. By and by, he came back, exclaiming, 'Father, Bob Noble says as how, if I spend my sixpence myself they'll cheat me; and if he buys something with it he'll get more than I can; and then he promises never to do so any more.' 'Never to do what any more?' 'Why, never eat up all the cakes himself.' 'When did he do that?' 'Oh, why, sometimes when you give me a ha'penny on Saturday afternoons he makes me let him spend it for me, and then he eats it all himself, and only gives me two or three crumbs.' 'Indeed!' 'Yes, but he says he's very fond of me now, and if I'll let him only this time, he says he's sure he won't do so again.' 'Why, you silly boy, didn't he promise the same thing before?' 'Yes, but—' 'Oh, nonsense! go and say, that when he has given back all the ha'pennies he has robbed you of, then you'll tell him whether you'll let him spend the sixpence for you.'

"Now this is just the course I propose to pursue in the matter of State education."

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

MOST of our City readers are aware, that Gog and Magog are at loggerheads. The court of Common Council and their worships the Aldermen are at issue upon a money question. The facts are these:—for some few years past, the court of Aldermen have voted sums of money out of the City purse without the consent, and sometimes in opposition to their co-trustees the Commons. This began in 1807 or 1808. In those and several succeeding years, the accounts show that the sums paid by the Chamberlain, by order of the court of Aldermen, did not exceed £500 a year; these payments have gone on increasing, until they amount to nearly four thousand pounds per annum, voted by one section of a trust without the sanction of the other.

The conflict actually began last summer, by the court of Common Council ordering the Chamberlain not to pay any money on account of a projected water frolic to Oxford by Lord Mayor Johnson; but the more immediate cause of collision was the introduction by the Commons of two bills, one to regulate the qualifications of members of their own courts, the other to enact that all grants of money should originate with the Common Council. Although the first of these bills had been allowed to pass the second reading, on its being brought up for a third reading, the Lord Mayor, acting by the advice of the Recorder—and his opinion being stated distinctly, that the charter gave no power to the Common Council to make the proposed alterations—refused to put the question, and the court was broken up amidst indescribable confusion. Since then, meetings have been held by a committee of the Common Council, the annual elections have taken place, and one general opinion prevails, that the time is come when an appeal to the Imperial Parliament can no longer be delayed.

Some censure has been passed on the learned Recorder for the advice and opinion he gave, as being opposed to the practice which he had sanctioned for many years. We see no force in this. The reforming members of the court have always felt that their hands were tied by the stringent enactments of a Royal charter. We give them credit for a laudable anxiety to adapt, as near as they could, the obsolete usages of bygone ages to the wants and necessities of

modern times; but the Recorder was right in advising resistance to an alteration in a fundamental principle. We have no doubt that the well-intentioned members of the Corporation will now see the folly of endeavouring to tinker up, by bye-laws and regulations among themselves, a charter of Edward III., so as to make it, in any way, fit the habits and manners of the present day.

The chief subject of complaint, at the Wardmotes, was the want of control over the treasury, by the Common Council, which the Aldermen were supposed to have usurped. We are far from thinking light of the money phase of the question, but we cannot help feeling that there are more important interests at stake. We admit that the impediments thrown in the way of the commerce of the City, by a host of corporation hangers on, are very great. We admit that the litigation in which the Corporation is perpetually engaged, to defend some obsolete usage, is monstrous. We admit the power of a money question over John Bull: you may hammer at him with a principle, for many years, without producing any impression; but the moment he gets an inkling that there is any money involved in the question, he is easily roused, and then woe betide the power that stands in his way. But while we admit these reasons for urging the money view, we submit that this view is only secondary; that the great monster evil of the Corporation is its entire want of sympathy with any large class of citizens, and a total absence of that confidence in the wisdom of the magistracy which alone can render them useful to their fellow-citizens.

We are not generally anxious for Parliamentary interference; it is one of the remedies for social evils we have not much faith in; but in the present case there is no alternative. The good men in the Corporation are tied down to an obsolete charter; the jobbers and their satellites—and their name is Legion—use its provisions to defend all the old abuses. We earnestly entreat our fellow-citizens not to lose this opportunity of trying, at any rate, to obtain some corporation amendment. The times are favourable for such a movement, and it will be sure to enlist every lover of freedom of trade, and every lover of order and right, in its favour.

MR. VINCENT AT NEWPORT PAGNELL.—On Wednesday evening Mr. H. Vincent delivered the last of three lectures on Cromwell and the Commonwealth, to a meeting, which was well attended, in the Public-room of this town. In these lectures the stirring events of that matchless period of British history were treated in a manner well worthy of their exalted character. The lectures were eminently distinguished by discrimination of character, clear elucidation of historical facts, glowing descriptions, and interspersed with the most brilliant flashes of oratory; the whole having an important bearing on the principles of peace, morality, and the highest interests of religion, not always found in lectures which are calculated to sway the popular mind.—*From a Correspondent.*

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ELECTION.—There is no longer any doubt that the Liberal candidate (Sir M. J. Cholmeley), who has at length come forward to succeed Lord Worsley in the representation of the Lindsay division of this country, will be unopposed.

DISMISSAL OF POLICE OFFICERS.—On Saturday last, at the meeting of Commissioners of Police, in Scotland-yard, no fewer than twenty-two officers connected with various sections of the metropolitan police were dismissed for drunkenness and other breaches of conduct in the performance of their duties on Christmas-day.

THE NEW OPPOSITION.—It is rumoured in well-informed circles that the most prominent place in Opposition, during the ensuing session, will be conceded to Lord Lincoln. The report, we imagine, must be considered to have reference rather to those who will occupy the seats opposite to the Ministerial benches, than to any portion of the House of Commons disposed to treat the measures of the Government in a spirit of party hostility. Technically, and as ex-Ministerialists, the Opposition, Lord Lincoln and his friends, can have no other intention than that of supporting the Liberal policy of the present Cabinet, as Lord John Russell supported the great measures of Sir Robert Peel.—*Morning Chronicle.*

REPRESENTATION OF NORWICH.—We rejoice in the proposal which has been made to invite Mr. S. M. Peto to become a candidate for the city, and in the reception which that proposal has met with we refer to a recent important meeting as evidence, that the proposal is acceptable to the constituency. The meeting was composed of the Liberal members of the town-council. It was convened by circular, signed by Messrs. Springfield, Willet, and Beare, three gentlemen who, if not themselves leaders of the party, are unquestionably as good representatives of the strength of the party as any individuals that could be named. Under these circumstances, we cannot but regard the result of the meeting as auguring well for a united invitation to Mr. Peto, by Liberals of all classes.—*Norfolk News.*

EARTHQUAKE AT COMRIE.—Almost every day during last week, we have been visited with shocks of earthquake. They generally happened during the night time, yet were considerable enough to be distinctly felt by many. They were accompanied only by a slight noise.—*Scotsman.*

* One case, selected from many, will show the character of the petty annoyances by which the commerce of the port of London is impeded. The Corporation claim the right of metreage on all dry goods, fruit, &c. The claim is disputed; but the pretence for its continuance was that it enabled the merchant to check the Customs charges. Sir Robert Peel, it is well known, repealed a number of frivolous duties: among the rest, that on chequers; but such are the free-trade tendencies of this Corporation, with all their vaunted patriotism, that, although the merchant protests against the delay, as well as against the unnecessary expense upon a trifling article, the Corporation servants insist upon their right to measure, and to be paid for measuring, while the only shadow of a reason for doing so is removed by act of Parliament. Thus, all that description of trade is driven to the outports.

MANCHESTER ELECTION.—CATHOLIC ENDOWMENTS.

The following correspondence between Canon Stowell and Lord Lincoln, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Brotherton, and Mr. Bright, was published in Manchester, on Wednesday:—

My Lord,—As president of the Manchester and Salford Protestant Association, I have been requested, on behalf of a considerable body of the electors of Manchester, to solicit from you a reply to the following question:—Is it your decided opinion that no further national concessions to the Church of Rome ought to be made in these realms? Awaiting your answer, I am, &c.,

HUGH STOWELL.

Lord Lincoln declines answering the question at present, on the ground that he is not yet a candidate for the representation of Manchester.

Board of Trade, 19th December.

Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Milner Gibson to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst., informing him that, as President of the Manchester and Salford Protestant Association, you had been requested, on behalf of a considerable body of the electors of Manchester, to solicit from him a reply to the following question:—Is it your opinion that no further national concessions to the Church of Rome ought to be made in these realms? In answer to this, Mr. Gibson desires me to inform you that nothing is so unsatisfactory as to attempt to reply to general questions of an hypothetical character, when no definite measure is submitted for decision. Previous to the election for Manchester, Mr. Gibson declared himself in favour of the principle of religious liberty; and when any question involving that principle is brought under the consideration of the Legislature, it would be his duty to take a course in accordance with the views he has expressed. I am, &c.,

T. POOLE WARD.

Broughton, Dec. 18.

Rev. Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst. requesting, as president of the Manchester and Salford Protestant Association, and on behalf of a considerable body of the electors of Salford, a reply to the following question:—“Is it your decided opinion that no further national concessions to the Church of Rome ought to be made in these realms?” If by national concessions you mean grants of public money, I have no hesitation in saying that my decided opinion is, that no further grants ought to be made, either to the Church of Rome, or the Church of England; as it appears from a parliamentary return, that from the year 1800 to 1843, there have been granted out of the public purse £5,307,546 to the Established Church, and £365,007 to the Church of Rome, in addition to their other revenues. But considering the promotion of the peace, welfare, and happiness of all classes of her Majesty's subjects in the United Kingdom, to be of paramount importance and the object of wise and just legislation, I shall reserve to myself the right, so long as I have the honour to retain a seat in the House of Commons, to exercise an unfettered judgment on every subject that shall be submitted to the consideration of Parliament. I am, &c.,

J. BROTHERTON.

P.S. To avoid any mistake or misrepresentation, I think it advisable that our correspondence should be published.

Manchester, Dec. 17.

Sir,—I have your note of yesterday, requesting an answer to the following question:—“Is it your decided opinion that no further national concessions to the Church of Rome ought to be made in these realms?”—The question does not appear to me a very definite one, and I think it might have been put in a more simple form. I will, however, as briefly as possible, state what are my opinions with respect to our legislation, as it affects or may affect the Roman Catholics of the United Kingdom. I would give no legislative encouragement or protection to the Roman Catholics, that I would not also give to every other class or profession among the people. I would vote for no grants of public money to them, or to any other sect or persuasion, for the purpose of supporting or extending the views of any sect. I voted against the grant of Maynooth College, and shall oppose any proposition to endow the Roman Catholic church, or to pay its ministers or priests out of the public funds. I adopt this course, not because it is the Roman Catholics who are in question, but because I believe such payments and endowments are injurious to religion, and unjust to those who pay the taxes. I am, &c.,

JOHN BRIGHT.

Meetings of Mr. Bright's supporters still continue, and with the same success. It is doubtful whether Lord Lincoln will consent to stand.

DISTRESS IN THE HIGHLANDS.—We have received a most distressing account of the state of the poor people at Tobermory. We mentioned lately that a government vessel was in the bay there loaded with provisions; but from this source the unemployed and destitute creatures to whom the following letter relates derive no advantage, as the officers in charge of that ship are only authorised to sell the food on board. We do most earnestly hope that this and many similar appeals will open the hearts and hands of all who have it in their power to render the suffering and patient people prompt and liberal assistance. The following is an extract from the letter:—“Tobermory, Dec. 17, 1846.—I would have written sooner, but that the state of our poor people prevents my thinking of or doing anything else. I did not, indeed, anticipate that so soon the famine would have appeared with such grievous effects. There are hundreds now in this little village who have not a morsel of food except what is given them by those who have still some; many who have never begged before are almost famished before they leave home to ask for food; and some have been a day, or two days, and even more, without food.”—*Greenock Advertiser.*

THE MOVEMENT ON BEHALF OF TAHITI.—In addition to the names of places we have already given, meetings have been held, and memorials to Lord Palmerston adopted, on behalf of the natives of Tahiti, at Lambeth, (signed by about 1,000 householders, among whom are seven or eight of the clergy and ministers of various other denominations, the churchwardens, guardians, and overseers, together with many of the most respectable inhabitants of the borough, of all parties) Birmingham, Chester, Bradford, Woolwich, Dover, Kentish Town, Royston, Great Torrington, Faversham, Yeovil, Wellingborough, Stebbing, &c. In most cases members of the Church of England have co-operated with Dissenters in signing the memorials. In Ireland the friends of the London Missionary Society have warmly responded to the invitation of the directors, and memorials from Dublin, Belfast, Cork, and several of the principal towns in the north and south of Ireland, have been forwarded to his lordship. These memorials contain nearly 5,000 signatures, including a large number of ministers of the Gospel of all denominations. The Dublin memorial was signed by a considerable number of Roman Catholics,—a fact highly creditable to their liberal feeling, and worthy of the notice of the Protestant Minister of France. In reply to a memorial from Devonport, Sir G. Grey says:—“I am assured that his (Lord Palmerston's) attention has been willingly given to the promotion of the object of the memorialists, with reference to which he is in communication with the French Government.”

THE WORKING OF GOVERNMENT EDUCATION IN HOLLAND.

(From the Leeds Mercury.)

Mr. Joseph Kay, the Traveller Bachelor of the University of Cambridge, in his late work on “The Education of the Poor of England and Europe,” gives a very charming account of the system of Government education in Holland, drawn from the publications of Mr. Nicholls, M. Cousin, and others. He ascribes to Holland the honour of being one of the first countries in Europe to promote the general education of the people, and “throw off the shackles of uncharitable and unchristian sectarianism.” He even says, in direct opposition to the fact, that “in Holland the masters are required to give religious instruction to all the children,” though he adds they are also required “to avoid most carefully touching on any of the grounds of controversy between the different sects.”

This is a sample of the trustworthiness of Mr. Kay's book: for the fact is, that there is nothing deserving the name of religious instruction given in the schools of Holland, and the Bible is excluded from them, though scripture extracts are used in them. There are, indeed, rooms provided in which the ministers of religion may attend to give religious instruction to the children, as was proposed by Dr. Hook to be attached to the State schools in England: but the working of the system is utterly unsatisfactory to great numbers of evangelical Christians in that country, so much so that some are even emigrating to America, in consequence of the restrictions placed on the religious education of their children.

An interesting communication appears in the *Patriot* of Monday last, from which we learn that about a thousand persons are emigrating from Holland, owing to three principal causes,—viz., 1st, the declining state of the middle and lower classes in that country; 2nd, the want of religious liberty; and 3rd, the impossibility of educating their children in the way they believe most conformed to the word of God. The Government in Holland professes to pay all the ministers of religion, of whatever sect, as well as to support the public schools. But there, as everywhere, it is found that Government support involves Government control, and restrictions incompatible with liberty. The Government prohibits the assembling together of more than twenty persons for any religious purpose, without a permission or license from the authorities. And as to education, it takes the entire direction of it into its own hands,—prescribes what schools shall be opened, who shall teach them, what books shall be used in them, and what kind of religious instruction shall or shall not be given. Of course this implies prohibition, as well as provision. No person is permitted to teach without a license, whatever may be his qualifications. No religious body can establish a school where their own principles can be taught in connexion with general education. No school-book may be used, but such as the Government officers sanction. Every schoolmaster is liable to dismissal by the authorities.

The following extracts from the communication in the *Patriot* will, as the writer says, “supply a lesson on the practical working of Government education, which all Christians, but more especially those amongst Dissenters, will do well to study:”—

You are aware that in Holland, education is entirely under the control of Government; the laws concerning which are excessively severe. The Secretary of State has the high direction of this department; under him are General Inspectors, District Inspectors, Provincial Commissioners, and Local-school Commissioners. No person is allowed to give instruction, unless he has been previously examined and approved by the School Commission. No school can be opened but by the consent of the same authorities. No master can be named to a school but by them. A general list of books for the use of the schools is kept by the Secretary of State, from which list a second is made out by the School Commission of each locality. No other books than those on the second list can be employed in the schools. The Bible is excluded from the general list, and is consequently not permitted in any school in the country. The reason assigned for this is, that if the scriptures were placed as a class-book in the hands of the children, it would destroy their respect for the sacred volume. The want of the Bible is supplied by extracts, or scripture lessons. No religious instruction is to be given during school-hours.

The present state of education in Holland is such that evangelical men of every denomination deplore it most bitterly, and are earnestly praying for a radical change. It is such as in a great measure to drive a whole body of Christians from their native land. In some of the schools, the instruction given is such as to render it impossible for the Christian parent to allow his child to frequent them; the master, in many cases, being not only opposed to those truths which evangelical Dissenters believe the word of God reveals, but oftentimes he professes those doctrines which every true believer abhors and rejects.

At the Hague, some Christians belonging to the National Church, deploring the unchristian character of the schools of that town, wished to open one in which the education should be such as every Christian parent could approve. The School Commission rejected the petition which was presented to them: appeal was made to the superior authorities, one after the other, up to the “States General,” but every effort has been in vain. Not long since, a young Roman Catholic priest was banished from the town for six years, for having opened a school for young children. Christians of every rank and of every name deeply deplore the wretched state of their national education. Religion is completely excluded from the lower schools, and rationalism is boldly taught in the Universities. To this Christians must submit, for there is no remedy, or leave the country.

The opening of schools, the appointing of the teachers, the choice of books employed, everything being solely in the hands of the school authorities, Christians can have no influence whatever on the education given, whilst the Government, through its agents, must have an irresistible power over the youth of the whole land.

Such is the despotic nature and the offensive working of the system of Government Education, in the country which is held up as a model to England in regard to schools! Yet in Holland education is not compulsory. In Prussia and most of the German States, the system is still worse. We hope the disclosure of these facts will open the eyes of many who, by looking only at one side of the question, have formed opinions in favour of Government education.

IRISH EVANGELICAL SOCIETY.

EXTREME DISTRESS.

The Committee of the Irish Evangelical Society would express their sincere thankfulness to those friends who have so generously responded to their appeal on behalf of the almost starving poor on their 150 stations in the sister kingdom. In every district throughout the country the visitation presses so sorely, that it is no exaggeration to say that multitudes are on the very borders of starvation. Indeed, instances are not few in which death has ensued, clearly the result of the utter destitution to which the people are reduced. Can British Christians satisfactorily enjoy the “festivities” of the present season without thinking of and endeavouring to relieve the miseries of their fellow-Christians in that land? The agents of the Society, themselves suffering from all but famine prices of every kind of provision, plead most earnestly for assistance in their attempts to mitigate the appalling distress that meets them at every step. Shall their appeals be in vain? They are, perhaps, the best qualified persons that can be selected to dispense the contributions which the liberality of the friends of the Society may transmit. They are constantly mingling with the poor whilst fulfilling their missionary engagements, and become thereby acquainted with their actual condition. The Committee would, therefore, again respectfully, but most earnestly appeal to the friends of the Society, and to their fellow-Christians generally, to aid them in the effort, which, by the providence of God, they feel themselves called upon to put forth, in this period of overwhelming distress. The Committee would venture again to suggest that those pastors, with their churches, who have no conscientious objection, and who have but few, if any, poor in their communion, might render most effectual aid by devoting the January sacramental collection to this object. Some are intending this; and the Committee will thankfully receive the proceeds, and, without the least delay, transmit the amount to be distributed amongst the members of the mission churches and the regular attendants on the ministry of the agents.

The committee are encouraged to hope, that this providential visitation will turn out to the “furtherance of the Gospel.” The people are, in many parts, more ready to listen to the evangelical instructions of the agents than at any former period. On this account it is exceedingly desirable that every advantage should be taken of the opportunities afforded for the visits of the Scripture readers to the habitations of the sufferers, and for the preaching of the truth by the pastors and missionaries in every part of the country. The committee have great pleasure in announcing the donations already given or promised, to meet the generous offer of the lady who has promised £200, on condition that the like amount be specially contributed by other persons. The time specified has nearly expired, and by the advertisement in another part of the paper it will be seen, the amount has not yet been realised. The committee cannot suffer themselves to believe that the friends of “pure and undefiled religion” will permit this opportunity for increasing the number of faithful men at present engaged in the Connaught mission to fail for want of support. If the amount in question be received, the committee will be prepared to carry into immediate operation the benevolent desire of the lady whose generous challenge is the basis of this appeal.

THOMAS JAMES.

Blomfield-street, Dec. 23rd, 1846.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, CITY-ROAD.—ROYAL PATRONAGE.—Her Majesty the Queen has honoured this very old and useful charity by directing its secretary, Mr. J. Soul, to place her royal name at the head of the list of the ladies patronising the fancy sale, which is to be held in May next, in aid of the erection of the new building at Haverstock-hill. Following her Majesty, are the names of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, the Duchess of Cambridge, and the Duchess of Gloucester, also her Grace the Duchess of Sutherland, and other distinguished personages; besides a list of other ladies, who give their names as secretaries for their various localities, equally qualified by that for the Anti-corn-law League bazaar, which was held at Covent-garden theatre in 1845. We are glad to find that this movement is not confined to London, but that representatives of all the principal towns in England, besides some for Scotland and Ireland, appear. We unfeignedly rejoice at the prospect of great success under the present management of the institution, and trust that it will take rank among the very best educational establishments of the age.

TEN HOURS BILL.—On Sunday, a numerous meeting of delegates from the manufacturing districts of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire, was held in a school-room, Great Ancoats-street, Manchester, and, by adjournment, at the Woodman's Hut public-house, for the purpose of considering what steps were to be taken to promote the measure this session. There were fifty delegates present. It was stated that Mr. Fielden and Lord Ashley had consulted together, and that they had adopted what appeared to be the safest way to accomplish the ultimate object of the operatives; viz., to adopt eleven hours until 1849, and, after that time, ten hours. This compromise was unanimously agreed to by the delegates, who expressed a confident assurance that Mr. Fielden's bill would be carried next session. It was, also, resolved to petition Parliament in favour of the bill.

It is stated that her Majesty will, in all probability, honour the Duke of Beaufort with a visit, at Badminton-house, at an early period after Christmas.—*Cheltenham Chronicle.*

THE DURHAM UNIVERSITY.—With the view of making this institution, which was founded twelve years ago, more extensively available, a new hall (the old college being full) has lately been opened, at which members are admitted with all the privileges, as far as the lecture-rooms and emoluments are concerned, of the original body, at which every domestic and academic expense will be met for £60 per annum. Perhaps they will some day think of abolishing tests.

LITERATURE.

The Pre-Adamite Earth: Contributions to Theological Science. By JOHN HARRIS, D.D., Author of "The Great Teacher," &c. Ward and Co.

DR. HARRIS is too well known as a popular preacher and writer to require any description of his general characteristics, for the information of our readers. About ten years ago he was pursuing the unostentatious course of a country pastor, few being aware that "a man was hidden" at Epsom, besides those who had possessed opportunities of marking his collegiate career, and who boldly predicted that he would, if spared, one day evince the possession of gifts and attainments of an unusual order. As often happens, his merits were brought before the public in an almost accidental manner. He had written a work, "The Great Teacher," which, although, in our humble judgment, decidedly superior to any he has yet produced, obtained by no means the attention it deserved. True, it reached a second edition, and received some commendatory notices from the public press; but it is well to be cautious in praising a new man. "Men will praise thee when thou doest well for thyself." A prize was offered for the best essay on "Covetousness,"—our author obtained it. Prizes were not so common then as they are now; the matter made a stir; edition after edition appeared. The heads of houses looked towards the successful competitor. The Presidency of Cheshunt College was offered to him, and accepted. Another prize was gained, and yet another, and a fourth nearly won. All this served to reveal the powers and acquirements that existed before. Years of hard study received their reward, and the author of "The Divine Establishment,"* took his proper place among the guides and cultivators of the public mind.

Had the circumstances which first gave him notoriety not occurred, Dr. Harris would, most assuredly, not have long remained a comparative stranger to the readers of Great Britain. Without any desire to use "flattering words," and prepared to point out qualifications and exceptions to the praise to which his works entitle him, we can honestly speak of his productions in a strain of warm commendation. His style is, to our mind, the least of his excellencies. That it is graceful, copious, and generally correct, is admitted, but it wants variety and force. The scene would be more pleasing if it were more undulating—the stream would look better with more ripples. We are no admirers of smooth, elegant composition. The abruptness of Carlyle, albeit sometimes affected, is worth far more than the rounded, polished, sentences which we are thankful to see going fast out of fashion. They pall; and the admirable thoughts and beautiful images in which Dr. Harris's works abound have often suffered injury from the, in one sense, too perfect vehicle by which they have been conveyed. Let him bid adieu to this, forget Hall, and remember Foster, and he will find his account in an age that prefers strength to sweetness. The great charm of Dr. Harris's works, to us, is the clearness, comprehensiveness, and beauty of his thoughts. He may not be often profound in the strictest sense, but he is never commonplace. His mind is decidedly philosophical. Orthodox in doctrine, and often eminently practical in scope and tendency, he looks at common subjects through his own medium, treats them in a larger spirit, and gives them wider relations, than do many, and leaves the impression that he is dealing fairly with you—aiming at your heart through your reason. His intellect is active, liberal, and suggestive, and his imagination is ever ready with fitting forms and graceful ornaments. He has certainly helped to give a higher character and a broader reference to the popular orthodoxy of his day, and, with lengthened life, is evidently destined to greater works than he has yet performed.

The volume before us is one of larger pretensions than those that have already appeared from his pen. He may have treated themes as important, and dealt with "arguments" as "high," but his previous productions have been those of the theologian—this enters into other regions. Whatever may be thought of the aim, and the manner in which it is attempted to be reached, none can question the extensive acquaintance it reveals with the most important facts and theories of modern science. But few of its departments are not referred to in a way to indicate habits of reading and thought that would do honour to one more professionally conversant with them than our author. The science of whose revelations he makes most use is that of geology, and this he fearlessly treats, in conformity with the now most commonly received doctrines. We do not apprehend that this circumstance will unfavourably influence, to any important extent, the reception of his volume. A few timid people, and as ignorant as timid, though sincere and earnest in their attachment to Christianity, will condemn his speculations; but we trust the time is gone by for any serious outcry against a work proceeding upon the principle of a perfect harmony between the word and works of God. Whether geology has attained to that state which renders it safe to deal with it in the method, and for the purposes, of the contemplated series of volumes, is another matter, and one upon which there will probably be a variety of opinions among those who yet substantially agree with the views which they maintain. Remembering

* As Nonconformists, may we ask why a new edition of this discourse has not appeared? The author's name would secure a wide circulation to truths that were never more reasonable than at present.

the past history of that science, we are rather disposed to think that the time is scarcely arrived for such a use of its conclusions as is now proposed. At any rate, it is a case demanding the utmost care and calmness of judgment. Assuming the plan to be a right and reasonable one, the present volume affords good promise of its successful execution. It bears marks of deep study and competent knowledge. Its reasoning is close and powerful, and it has many passages that we should like, for the sake of their great beauty, to present to our readers, but our space forbids.

The best thing we can do within that space, we shall do—that is, furnish a general view of our author's end and course. "The present volume," says the preface, "is intended to be the first of a short series of treatises—each complete in itself—in which the principles and laws hereafter deduced, and applied to the successive stages of the pre-Adamite earth, will be seen in their historical development as applied to individual man; to the family; to the nation; to the Son of God as 'the second Adam,' the Lord from heaven; to the church which he has founded; to the revelation which he has completed; and to the future prospects of humanity." The present volume bears a relation to this series of prime importance. It is not only the first and introductory, but it is indispensable to the proper understanding and use of them. It is the foundation of which they will be the superstructure. The "laws" are here revealed and proved, the various applications of which will form the subjects of the succeeding volumes—and they are shown in their pre-Adamite operations. The *First Part* contains, in five chapters, an exposition of "primary truths"—which are thus expressed. "The Great Reason; or, why God is, and must be, His own end from everlasting to everlasting"—"The Ultimate Purpose; or, the manifestation of the divine all-sufficiency the last end of creation"—"The Fundamental Relation; or the manifestation of the divine all-sufficiency, mediatorial"—"The Primary Obligation; or, duty arising from the Mediatorial Relation"—"The Supreme Right; or, Mediatorial Authority and Happiness commensurate with the discharge of obligation." The *Second Part* states the general principles which logically result from the primary truths, which are the following:—"That every divinely-originated object and event is a result, of which the supreme and ultimate reason is in the Divine Nature"—"That everything sustains a relation to the great purpose, and is made subservient to it"—"That the manifestation will be carried on by a system of means, or medial relations"—"That everything will be found either prompting, or under an obligation to promote, the great end, commensurate with its means and relations"—"That everything will be entitled to an amount of good, or of well-being, or will be found in the enjoyment of it, proportionate to the discharge of its obligations, or, to the degree of its conformity to the laws of its being"—"That everything will be found to involve the existence of necessary truth"—"That everything will be found to involve the existence of contingent truth"—"That everything will be found, by necessity of nature, and as a relative perfection, essential to the manifestation of divine all-sufficiency, to involve truth surpassing the perfect comprehension of the finite mind—i.e. there will be ultimate facts"—"That the manifestation be progressive; or, that the production of new effects, or the introduction of new laws, be itself a law of manifestation"—"That the manifestation, besides being progressive, will be continuous; or will be progressive by being continuous—leaving no intervals of time, or of degree, but such as the modifying influence of other laws may require, or account for"—"That the continuity of the manifestation requires that all the laws and results of the past should, in some sense, be carried forwards; and that all that is characteristic in the lower steps of the process should be carried up into the higher, as far as it may subserve the great end; or, unless it should be superseded by something analogous, and superior in the higher, and the future"—"That the same property or characteristic which existed, in the preceding and inferior stage of the manifestation, be superior in the succeeding and higher stages, or else be applied to additional or higher purposes (if it be not altogether superseded by something superior); or, that it be in the power of the succeeding and the higher, so to render or to apply it"—"That, as every law will have an origin or date, it will come into operation on each individual subject of it, according to its priority of date in the great system of manifestation"—"That everything will occupy a relation in the great system of means, and possess a right in relation to everything else, according to its power of subserving the end; or, everything will bring in it and with it, in its own capability of subserving the end, a reason why all other things should be influenced by it—a reason for the degree in which they should be influenced, and for the degree in which it, in its turn, should be influenced by everything else"—"That every law subordinate in rank, though it may have been prior in date, be subject to each higher law of the manifestation, as it comes into operation"—"That the whole process of manifestation be conducted uniformly, as far as the end requires, or, according to the operation of laws"—"That every part of the manifestation be analogous to every other part, or, according to a plan"—"That the law of ever-enlarging manifestation be itself regulated by a law determining the time for each successive stage and addition to the great process"—"That the beings to whom this manifestation is to be made, and by whom it is to be understood, appreciated, and volun-

tarily promoted, must be constituted in harmony with these laws; or these laws of the objective universe will be found to have been established in prospective harmony with the designed constitution and the destiny of the subjective mind, which is to expound and to profit by them." The application of these principles to the pre-Adamite earth—comprehending the three stages of "Inorganic Nature," "Organic Life," and "Sentient Existence"—occupies the three last parts of the volume.

It will be seen from this table of contents, viewed in connexion with the plan designed to be worked out, that our author has committed himself to a task of no small labour and responsibility. We sincerely hope that he will have life and strength to fulfil it. We purposely abstain from expressing a judgment on the theological theory on which the volume is based. We have preferred to give, in his own words, the author's process of development and proof. It is obvious, at the first view, that the bearings of the general plan upon many of the most important questions that can interest the human mind, some of which especially call in our own day for skilful and delicate treatment, are direct and vital; and the execution of that portion of it now performed gives us good hope that the entire work will be, in a high degree, worthy of the interests reading the volume, while here and there we should have liked to question our author, with his general statements and reasonings we agree, and that his involved. Its connexion with a full and harmonious view of the great system of evangetic truth, its wide relations to truth in general, its exact place in the economy of mind and Providence, its impregnable evidences and august claims, is such as gives to the undertaking an importance that cannot be exaggerated. It is impossible that, in its course, many momentous and acknowledged principles should not receive fresh illustration, many difficulties should not be either removed or considerably weakened, and the unity and majesty of the Divine counsels presented in a form, and with an evidence, to produce a deep impression on every intelligent and godly mind. One pre-eminent demand of the times is, that the Divine revelation of truth and grace should be treated as part of the dispensation of God, seeking the end, and bearing the traces, clearer and deeper it may be, of all other parts. It has been too much the fashion to look at the Bible as having little or no resemblance to the great manifestations to be found elsewhere. Theology has been, in many hands, a separate and unrelated science—in many it has been no science at all. It has been regarded as the exclusive property of the faithful, having laws, rules, properties, and purposes of its own—not to be intermeddled with by any of the alien phenomena and proceedings of the outward world and universal life. Its facts have been discussed as if not amenable to ordinary rules of judgment; its principles have been developed as if they had mode and image elsewhere. To look into the material creation and the human mind for anything that should speak the same things, or require the same conduct, has often subjected to the charge of lowering and debasing the oracles of truth. The way to the tree of life has been kept by a flaming sword, turning every way, to prevent the approach of all who have eaten of the tree of knowledge! Hence the technical form of religious ideas in many Christians; hence their frequent jealousy of science; and hence, too, in a considerable degree, the aversion with which Christianity is regarded by many who, on their part, fall into similar partiality and bigotry in widely different connexions. A better manner, we rejoice to say, is rapidly obtaining—one which recognises and honours the harmony, inseparableness, and mutual dependencies of all the great words and works of God—remembering, that He who builds the church is "He who built all things;" that He who speaks to us "by His Son" is He who, at "sundry times and in divers manners," has spoken to "our fathers" and to us. The series of works proposed by Dr. Harris will do important service in meeting the desideratum we have mentioned; and while Christianity will lose nothing in his hands of its essential worth and peculiar characteristics, it will gain much in being exhibited as the fuller expression, and more glorious and living form, of truths of whose being and power all Nature speaks.

We shall not say more, at present, than that, while in reading the volume, we should have liked, here and there, to question our author; his plan, when completed, will, in our view, present many momentous facts and principles in a condition of cohesion and comprehensive development in which they have not hitherto appeared; while, apart from this altogether, it will render, in various respects, the most valuable service to Christian truth. We shall close our notice of the volume before us by giving one extract; the remarks contained in which bear closely on some mistaken and narrow judgments of both believers and unbelievers, premising that the extract is no more to be regarded as a specimen of the work than a brick as a sample of a house. The proposition is, that it is a condition of the manifestation, that it be unending:—

"For if it should terminate at any given point in futurity, the proof of all-sufficiency for an eternal manifestation would terminate with it; and then the suspicion might be justly awakened, that if the manifestation had gone on, a crisis might have arrived for which the Deity might not have been sufficient. Besides which, all-sufficiency, from its very nature, requires infinity and eternity in which to be developed, for it implies sufficiency for nothing less than that. And it requires the same, from the very nature and constitution of those to whom the manifestation is to be made; for they are capable of interminable progression. To the objector, then, who should call for an unlimited effect in proof of Divine all-sufficiency, we would simply reply,

that when he shall have existed for an unlimited duration, he may consistently expect to behold it.

"Considering the constitution of the beings to whom the manifestation is to be made, in connexion with the infinite perfection of the Being who is to make it, such a manifestation, then, would seem to require that it should be progressive and unending: in order that they might be able to go along step by step with the great development; to hang over the mighty process, and mark how the attainment of one end attains a number of inferior ones placed in a line with it; how part is linked to part; how the evolution of one part tends to the evolution of another part, contains the promise of it, leads to it, and predicts another and another yet; so that all-sufficiency is perpetually making fresh demands on itself, and illustrating itself by perpetually meeting those demands in a way demonstrative of all-sufficiency, constraining them to acknowledge that it has no limits.

"The remark, then, that the manifestation, not being objectively completed at once, cannot be regarded as worthy of God, admits of the most satisfactory reply; for, to allege no other reason, it is a manifestation for a purpose—to be understood; and its gradual development is that which especially adapts it to this end. The objection would hold only on the supposition that the manifestation was not made rapidly enough for the rapid mental and moral progress of the beings for whom it was made—did not keep pace with their advancing powers of comprehension and appreciation. For if it does meet those demands, to them, in effect, it will be always unlimited, and virtually infinite. Had such a thing been possible, then, that it could have been completed at once, man would not have known more of it ten thousand ages hence than he will at the same distant point of time now that it is progressive. While, at every stage of his knowledge, to him, in effect, the display will have been infinite and complete; for the limits of his comprehension will be always unspeakably within the limits of the manifestation at its every stage. We have said that, in the case supposed, he would not have known more than ten thousand ages hence than he will now by a progressive manifestation. But we advance further, and remark, that one of the reasons of this progressiveness is that, in the case supposed, he would not have known so much. Nor, as we shall hereafter show, would his knowledge have equally availed him, for it would not have been the knowledge of observation and experience. Experience supposes a process, and a process requires time, and implies advance from one stage to another."—pp. 12-14.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

BRENTWOOD.—Mr. John Hall, of Hackney College, London, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the church and congregation at Brentwood, Essex, to become their minister and pastor, and will shortly enter upon the duties. They also intend erecting a new and spacious chapel upon an eligible site, kindly presented by one of their friends.

KINGSTHORPE.—Mr. J. Roberts, late of Chesterton, has accepted a unanimous invitation from the members of the Baptist church, Kingsthorpe, Northamptonshire, to become their pastor, and will enter upon his stated labours on the first Sabbath in the new year.

BRIDGEWATER.—On Wednesday, Dec. 16, Mr. R. Panks (of the old college, Homerton), was ordained to the pastoral charge of the Congregational church in Salem Chapel, Bridgewater. About thirty ministers were present.

A GENEROUS ACTION.—We understand that the congregation of the United Secession church, Glasgow, formerly under the pastoral care of the late esteemed Dr. Heugh, having deprived the congregation in St. Andrews of their much-esteemed pastor, Dr. Taylor, generously liquidated the whole debt upon the place of worship in the latter city.

PROVIDENCE CHAPEL, BROOK, CHATHAM.—On Lord's-day, December 13, the anniversary sermons of the above place of worship, were preached by Alexander Fletcher, D.D., Finsbury chapel, London. Notwithstanding the severe inclemency of the season, the attendance was large, and listened with intense delight to three discourses distinguished for their evangelical thought, fine scriptural imagery, and touching eloquence. On Monday, a public tea-meeting was held, when Dr. Fletcher and Messrs. Kinsman, Ricks, Love, and J. Acworth, addressed the meeting. The proceeds of the anniversary amounted to £23.

RECOGNITION OF MR. I. V. MUNMERY, AT QUEEN-STREET, RATCLIFFE.—This service took place on Thursday evening, Dec. 10th. It was commenced by Mr. Kennedy, pastor of Stepney. Dr. Reed presided, and gave a luminous address on the subject of Dissent and the Congregational ministry; and he was followed by Mr. Saunders, of Latimer Chapel, who directed his counsels chiefly to the young pastor. The designation prayer was then offered by Dr. Davies, of Stepney college. The church was next addressed by Dr. Hewlett, of Zion Chapel. Suitable and fervent prayers were successively offered by Messrs. Woodman and Seaborn. The hymns were given out by Messrs. Tyler, J. Raban, Talbot, and Ransom; and the whole of this impressive service was finished in less than two hours and a half.

THE FAMILY COMPANION.

A piano has been made in London for the use of Tom Thumb, on a scale suited to the capabilities of the diminutive hero.

The *Tablet* states that at the close of the Manchester mission early this month, the number of Protestants, converts to the church of Rome, was found to be 120.

In three days, last week, Lord Cardigan and a party shot upwards of 2,000 head of game at Deane-park, and called it sport.

Lord John Russell has appointed Dr. McWilliam medical attendant to the Board of Customs.

The *Standard* announces a probable contention for the seats on the front opposition bench, between Lord George Bentinck's followers and Sir Robert Peel's, on the opening of Parliament.

A correspondent of the *Morning Advertiser* says that Mr. Rowland Hill will now have his plan established at the Post-office, not as "a thing of shreds and patches," but as a "great whole."

Herrings caught at Brighton in the morning are sold in the Midland counties in the afternoon.

The *Limerick Chronicle* says, that in the ensuing year the entire British army, infantry as well as cavalry, will assume the moustache. Frightful!

A letter from Bayonne, of the 15th, mentions a very rare phenomenon which was observed on the previous evening—a violent thunder-storm in the midst of a heavy fall of snow.

It is said that the directors of the South Western Railway intend to connect Folkestone with Boulogne by means of a sub-marine electric telegraph.

It is stated the Bey of Tunis has offered to Louis Philippe the celebrated Cleopatra's Needle. The gift has been accepted, and will be conveyed to Paris, and placed in the centre of the Carrousel.

Upwards of 160 Madeirans, followers of Dr. Kalley, have arrived in Trinidad.

On the 17th the mayor of Newcastle-on-Tyne, at a grand banquet, gave the health of my lord the Railway King, and communicated it by electric telegraph. In about an hour an intimation was received from York that the compliment had been reciprocated.

A New Orleans newspaper contains this advertisement:—"For sale, an excellent young horse; would suit any timid lady or gentleman, with a long silver tail." The owner should send him to Ireland.

REDUCTION IN CAB FARES.—Several cabs, with placards announcing that they were running at sixpence a mile, are now conveying passengers at that rate in different parts of the metropolis.

A *World's Penny Postage*, says *Burrill's Christian Citizen*, is a human necessity, and a human practicality.

The correspondent of the *Edinburgh Register* states that two millions sterling would not cover the amount expended in presents each New Year's Day in Paris.

The proprietor of a temperance ninepin-alley, in Charleston, U. S., offers Harper's *Illustrated Bible* as a prize for 300 pins. A new feature in ninepins.

HINTS TO EDITORS FOR THE "DEAD SEASON."—Now lay in your "Extraordinary Cabbage," to last the whole winter. Now put your "American Sea Serpent" into paper, and dig up "The Oldest Inhabitant" for daily use. Now catch your "Voracious Pike," and sprinkle your sheets with "Wonderful Hailstones." Now look out for the "Author of Junius," who always comes up [with the "Floating Island on Derwent-water"] at this season of the year; and cut with scissors your "Second Crop of Strawberries." Now bag your "Stormy Petrel;" and do not forget to lay on, once a week or so, a good "Shower of Frogs."—*Punch's Almanack*.

A French philosopher has stated to the Academy of Sciences that gun-cotton may be eaten, and is suitable for the feeding of dogs. These must be the dogs of war we have heard so much about.—*Jerrold's Newspaper*.

PROCRASTINATE.—The two elder sons of Time were the fair To-Day, and the dark To-Morrow, and they both loved Virtue's noble daughter, the blue-eyed Duty; each seeking her for his bride. But Duty, won by the energy of To-Day, cared not for his younger brother, the dreamy To-Morrow. So she mated with the first-born, and Virtue, her loving mother, blessed their union. Then To-Morrow, moved by envy, went sorrowing to his father, Time, and the grey-beard folding him in his shadowy arms, drew his ill-gifted boy to his bosom, and thus consoled him:—"Grieve not, my child, that the greater vigour of thy brother hath found more favour than thyself in the eyes of the grave maiden, Duty; grieve not, for I will give unto thee, for thy partner, gay Folly; her whose laughing looks and merry mood hath won her countless followers, and whose realm is all the world. And, as a dowry, I decree that twice the third part of that which belongs to Duty and To-Day, shall henceforth be set apart for Folly and To-Morrow." But when even-handed Virtue heard the harsh resolve, indignant that what was rightly her children's should be transferred to others, she ordained that the first-born of Folly and To-morrow should dispossess them of their marriage portion. And, when the child was born, they called it—*Procrastination*.—[From *The Good Genius that turned Everything into Gold*, a fascinating and graceful Christmas story, by the brothers Mayhew, containing much beautiful writing, various striking illustrations by George Cruikshank, and (unlike Mr. Dickens's new annual) a wholesome moral. It is a book very suitable for a new year's present.]

MR. CHARLES DICKENS has taken a house in the Rue de Courcelles, near the Champs Elysées, for the winter.

PUBLIC SOCIETIES AND THE PRESS.—Secretaries appear to think editors and reporters omniscient, and to be aware of their every movement. They summon meetings without giving any intimation thereof to the newspapers, and great is their indignation at finding that no report of their proceedings is given to the world. Now, without wishing to magnify their labours, editors have a great deal to think of, and reporters have so much regular work to perform, that they have little time to play the part of eaves-droppers at the doors of societies' offices. It is the duty of associations to assist the press, by giving the earliest information of all meetings of importance which are intended to be held for the general edification. Where the attendance of reporters could not be procured, condensed authorised reports should be made by the secretaries, and sent to all papers alike, leaving it to the editors to make a suitable use of them. In this way the press might have its general utility doubled. We have no doubt that there are scores of meetings held every year in Hull whose proceedings the press is presumed unwilling to report, merely because its conductors know nothing about them. Now, it should be the pride of every intelligent public-spirited man to afford the press all the correct information possible.—*Hull Advertiser*.

REMEDY FOR CRAMP.—A writer in the *Medical Times* asserts that he has discovered in the following simple process an effectual remedy for this distressing and frequent complaint, to which he had himself been, for many years, a martyr. His plan is to sleep upon an inclined plane, which is effected by taking care that the bed or mattress should incline at least twelve inches from the upper to the lower portions of the bed; and for this purpose either the lower feet may be cut down to the requisite inclination, or the inclined plane may be made by an arrangement of mattresses, or by removing the feathers from the lower end of the bed. The writer was led to adopt this plan, by observing, that while sleeping in a chair, with the lower limbs nearly touching the floor, he never, in that position, was disturbed by cramp.

DAQUERRETYPE PORTRAITS.—As a great deal of the effect of these portraits, as pictures, result from the manner in which people go dressed for a sitting, we wish to give our readers a rule or two, which they would do well to bear in

mind. Avoid pure white as much as possible. Some ladies dress themselves out in snowy berths and spotless wristbands; but many a good picture is spoiled by the spottiness occasioned by the powerful action of this colour upon the plate. Violets also have the same effect upon it. A lady takes her sitting in a purple dress, and is astonished to find herself in white book muslin in her portrait; this particular colour acting even more intensely than the pure light upon prepared silver. The very best kind of dress to wear on such occasions is a satin or a shot silk, or any material, in fact, upon which there is a play of light and shade. Plaids always look well; and an old tartan shawl thrown across the shoulders, and well composed as to folds, would form an admirable drapery; but this is an artistic liberty which ladies are very loath to submit to. At most of the Daguerreotype establishments, articles of apparel, suitable as regards form and colour, were at first provided; but nobody would use them. "We wish to be taken as we are," was the invariable remark; and so they were stereotyped to their heart's content in a heap of finery put on merely for effect. We wish ladies would be a little less prim on such occasions. It is quite melancholy to see the care they take to brush their hair, and apply that abomination, fix-ture, to make it "look nice;" whereas, if a good breeze had broken it up into a hundred waves, the effect in the Daguerreotype would have been infinitely more beautiful. And let them by all means abjure the system of making up a face for the occasion. The effect is painfully transparent. The mouth, so expressive in all faces, in these portraits are nearly always alike; and for the simple reason that we put its muscles into attitudes which are not at all natural to it; we substitute a voluntary for an involuntary action, and of course stiffness is the result. If the ladies, however, must study for a bit of effect, we will give them a recipe for a pretty expression of mouth—let them place it as if they were going to say *prunes*.—*People's Journal* for December.

BIRTHS.

Dec. 18, the wife of Mr. R. E. FORSAITH, minister, of Royston, of a daughter.

Dec. 23, at Fellenberg-house, Stoke Newington, Mrs. VINCENT, of a daughter.

Dec. 23, Mrs. LEECH, of Finsbury-square, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Dec. 21, at Littlemoor Chapel, Glossop, by Mr. T. Atkin, minister, Mr. CHARLES HIGGINBOTTOM, of Whitfield, to ELIZA, only daughter of the late Mr. William JACKSON, surgeon, of Glossop.

Dec. 21, at the Baptist Chapel, East Parley, Christchurch, by Mr. Paul Alcock, minister, Mr. HENRY DEANE, of Pitt-house, to Miss MARY ANN CAMPBELL, of Bosley.

Dec. 24, at the Independent Chapel, Newark-upon-Trent, by the pastor, Mr. H. L. ADAMS, Mr. WILLIAM DAWN to Miss MARY BOURTON, of Scale.

Dec. 25, at the Independent Chapel, Newark-upon-Trent, by Mr. H. L. ADAMS, minister, Mr. RICHARD BAGGERLY to Miss MARY EYRE, of Hawton.

Dec. 25, at Blakeney, Gloucestershire, by Mr. W. Copley, minister, Mr. ROBERT CREED to Miss SARAH HILL, both of Cinderford, Forest of Dean.

Dec. 25, at the Independent Chapel, Christchurch, by the pastor, Mr. D. GUNN, Mr. GEORGE SMITH, of Portsea, to Miss EMILY NICHOLSON GILLARD, of Poole.

Dec. 25, at the Independent chapel, Christchurch, by Mr. D. GUNN, Mr. ELIAS LANE, grocer, to Miss FRANCES AUGUSTA NORTH, both of Christchurch.

Dec. 25, at St. Paul's Independent chapel, Wigan, by the pastor, Mr. W. ROAF, Mr. W. HUGHES, druggist, of Wigan, to Miss M. RADCLIFFE, of Aspal.

DEATHS.

Nov. 8, at Ledbury, Mr. JOHN GREY. He had been for forty years the pastor of the Congregational church in that town. His last illness was long and painful, but borne with Christian fortitude. His end was peace.

Dec. 16, after two day's illness, Mr. THOMAS CHAPMAN, of 20, Bucklersbury, aged 70.

Dec. 21, after a lingering illness, at his residence, Grecian-villas, Norwood, FREDERICK TEMPLE, Esq., a highly esteemed deacon of Mr. Benjamin Kent's Independent Chapel there. His end was peace.

Dec. 22, at Hull, the beloved wife of Mr. TARBOTTON, one of the deacons of Albion Chapel, and mother of Mr. William Tarbotton, minister, of Totnes, Devon.

Dec. 23, in the night, at 5, Whitehead-grove, Chelsea, ELIZABETH, PEN-R, the beloved daughter of George THOMPSON, aged six years.

Dec. 23, aged six months, JAMES JOSEPH, son of Mr. Richard Mullens, of 12, Myddleton-square.

Dec. 23, Mrs. VERNON, aged 35, wife of Mr. James Vernon, of Springfield Cottage, Parkstone, near Poole.

Dec. 23, aged six months, JAMES JOSEPH, son of Mr. Richard Mullens, of 12, Myddleton-square.

Dec. 24, at Belmont, Herts, DAVID BEVAN, Esq., aged 72, in consequence of injuries received the week before from an accident by fire.

Lately, at Woodlawn, near Stourbridge, aged 100 years 5 months, MARY, relict of George WILLIAMS. She was born at Oldswinford, in July, 1746. Her maiden name was Beard. She was married at the age of eighteen years, and had thirteen daughters and one son, six of whom survive her. Her husband died in 1812. She enjoyed all her faculties until her end, and sank at last, without disease, from the decay of nature.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Friday, December 25.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to an act of the 6th and 7th William IV., c. 85:—

Methodist New Connexion Chapel, Hunslet, Yorkshire.

BANKRUPTS.

ANDREWS, JAMES, Llantrisant, Glamorganshire, grocer, Jan. 8, Feb. 5: solicitor, Messrs. Pridemore and Son, Bristol.

BARKER, WILLIAM, Royston, Lancashire, millwright, Jan. 5 and Feb. 1: solicitors, Mr. R. H. Wilson, South-square, Gray's Inn, London; and Mr. R. H. Wilson, Manchester.

BARTLETT, HENRY, Redditch, Worcestershire, builder, Jan. 12 and 30: solicitors, Messrs. Mottram and Knowles, Birmingham.

CARD, JOHN, Dilton, Wiltshire, miller, Jan. 13, Feb. 11: solicitors, Messrs. Fennell, Child, and Kelly, Bedford-row; and Mr. H. Miller, Frome.

COOK, THOMAS, Leicester, printer, Jan. 15, Feb. 12: solicitor, Mr. J. Bowley, Nottingham.

ELLIOT, ROBERT, Liverpool, agricultural implement maker, Jan. 12 and 29: solicitors, Messrs. Holmes and Co., New Inn, London; and Mr. Booker, Liverpool.

ELSTON, WILLIAM ALFRED, Bugbrook, Northampton, Jan. 13, Feb. 9: solicitors, Mr. Freeman, Bedford-row; and Messrs. Freeman and Hicks, Northampton.

FIELDER, ALFRED, Alton, Hampshire, brewer, Jan. 5, Feb. 5: solicitors, Messrs. Dyer and Co., Ely-place, Holborn.

GREEN, HENRY, Birmingham, button manufacturer, Jan. 3 and 30: solicitor, Mr. T. Harding, Birmingham.

HARFORD, DANIEL, Birmingham, licensed victualler, Jan. 20, Feb. 3: solicitors, Mr. J. Smith, Birmingham; and Mr. H. Weeks, Cook's-court, Lincoln's-inn, London.

HULSE, THOMAS, Birmingham, boot seller, Jan. 6 and Feb. 3: solicitor, Mr. Rowlinson, Birmingham.

JONES, WILLIAM, and CLAY, GEORGE, Liverpool, boiler makers, Jan. 8, Feb. 9: solicitors, Messrs. Smith and Co., Bedford-row, London; and Mr. Grealley, Liverpool.

LANTLEY, PHILLIP JAMES, Broad-street-hill, druggist, Jan. 9, Feb. 5: solicitor, Mr. Sadgrove, Mark-lane.

NASH, MICHAEL O'HARA, Bristol, licensed victualler, Jan. 8, Feb. 5: solicitors, Messrs. Treherne and White, Burge-yard-chambers, Bucklersbury, London; and Mr. H. Sabine, Bristol.

OSWIN, WILLIAM, Liverpool, bootmaker, Jan. 12 and 29: solicitors, Messrs. Vincent, Temple, London; and Mr. E. G. Deane, Liverpool.

ROBERTS, OWEN, Tyn-y-Coed, Carnarvon, cattle dealer, Jan. 8, Feb. 9: solicitors, Messrs. Edwards and Peake, New Palace-yard,

London; Messrs. Williams and Edwards, Denbigh; and Mr. Dodge, Liverpool.

ROGERS, GEORGE, Gloucester, ironmonger, Jan. 8 and Feb. 5: solicitor, Mr. Wilkes, Gloucester.

WILKINSON, HENRY, Watford, cabinet maker, Jan. 7, Feb. 3: solicitor, Mr. Strutt, Buckingham-street, Strand.

WOOD, WILLIAM LAW, Gracechurch-street, ironmonger, Jan. 5, Feb. 5: solicitor, Mr. Henderson, Mansell-street, Goodman's-fields.

DIVIDENDS.

Michael Goodale, Rutland-terrace, Hovey New-road, Holloway, builder, first div. of 3s. 6d.; at 2, Basinghall-street, any Wednesday—Alfred Reed and Samuel John Powell, Tottenham-court-road, ironmongers, first div. of 2s. 2d.; at 2, Basinghall-street, any Wednesday—Richard Tebay, Winchester, plumber, a div. of 5d. on account of a former div. of 2s. 7d.; at 2, Basinghall-street, any Wednesday—William Warburton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, grocer, first div. of 3s.; at 57, Grey-street, Serle's-place, Carey-street, Lincoln's Inn, paper merchant, second div. of 6s. 9d.; at 72, George-street, Manchester, any Tuesday—J. Boulton, Ashton-under-Lyne, carrier, first div. of 5s. 4d.; at 72, George-street, Manchester, any Tuesday—John Breckenridge, Liverpool, tailor, first div. of 10s. upon new profits; at 12, Cook-street, Liverpool, Jan. 6, or any subsequent Wednesday—Samuel Mead, Liverpool, iron merchant, second div. of 2d.; at 12, Cook-street, Liverpool, Jan. 6, or any subsequent Wednesday—Robert Lee Dawson, Liverpool, merchant, second div. of 5d.; at 12, Cook-street, Liverpool, Jan. 6, or any subsequent Wednesday—Michael Wilson Osborne, Coventry, grocer, first div. of 4s.; at 27, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, any Wednesday—John Parton, Birmingham, draper, final div. of 3d.; at 27, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, any Wednesday—George Atkins, Liverpool, brewer, second div. of 6d.; at 11, Eldon-chambers, Liverpool, any Thursday—Wm. Watts, Doncaster, millwright, first div. of 6s. 8d.; at 4, Commercial-buildings, Leeds, any Friday—Robert Cook, Gainsborough, surgeon, first div. of 20s.; at High-street, Hull, any Wednesday—Richard Carlisle Capleton, Cheltenham, tea dealer, first div. of 5s. 6d.; at 19, St. Augustine's-place, Bristol, any Wednesday.

Tuesday, Dec. 30th.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

CLARK, THOMAS WILLIAM, Strood, Kent, common brewer.

BANKRUPTS.

BREWER, HENRY, Great Waltham, Essex, draper, Jan. 9, Jan. 30: solicitors, Messrs. Soles and Turner, 68, Aldermanbury.

COLEMAN, WILLIAM WHITNEY, Southampton, provision merchant, Jan. 5, Feb. 9: solicitors, Messrs. Freeman and Co., 39, Coleman-street.

MOORE, JOHN PERCY, Plymouth, chemist, Jan. 14, Feb. 4: solicitors, Mr. H. H. Cross, Plymouth; Messrs. Gregory and Co., Bedford-row, London; and Mr. J. H. Terrell, Exeter.

MORRIS, JOHN BEDDLETON, Kingston-upon-Hull, boot maker, Jan. 13, Feb. 3: solicitors, Mr. Hicks, Gray's-inn, London; Mr. E. C. Bell; and Messrs. Levett and Champney, Hull.

NORTON, THOMAS, Birmingham, builder, Jan. 9, Feb. 6: solicitor, Mr. B. Chesshire, Birmingham.

SHEPSTON, MARY ANN, 35, Brewer-street, Somers-town, scale manufacturer, Jan. 15, Feb. 9: solicitors, Messrs. Kell and Chaffers, 43, Bedford-row.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

ANDERSON, DAVID, Dalkeith, mail manufacturer, Jan. 4, 25.

DUFF, THOMAS ABERCROMBY, of the Loan Company, Haddington, Jan. 2, 23.

ROBERTSON, JAMES, jun., Glasgow and London, iron merchant, Jan. 4, 23.

RUSSELL, ROBERT, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, baker, Jan. 2, 23.

SHAW, NEIL, late of Whiting Bay, Avon, shipowner, Jan. 2, 23.

SKETE, HENRY ATWOOD, Perth, coal dealer, Dec. 31, Jan. 21.

WILSON, HENRY LEITCH, Glasgow, shawl manufacturer, Jan. 4, 25.

DIVIDENDS.

George Samuel Coxwell and William Croser, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, merchants, first and final div. of 8s. 11d. on the separate estate of William Croser, and of 1s. 5d. on the separate estate of George Samuel Coxwell; at 111, Pilgrim-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, any Saturday—George Nelson, Lazonby, Cumberland, farmer, first and final div. of 5s.; at 111, Pilgrim-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, any Saturday—Thomas Langston, Manchester, sharebroker, first div. of 9d.; at 35, George-street, Manchester, any Tuesday—James Gray, Manchester, upholsterer, first dividend of 1s. in the pound; at 35, George-street, Manchester, on any Tuesday—William Duanett, Manchester, commission agent, second div. of 3d.; at 35, George-street, Manchester, any Tuesday—Thomas Oxton, Liverpool, cart owner, first div. of 1d.; at 12, Cook-street, Liverpool, Jan. 6, or any subsequent Wednesday—Walter M'Dowall and Ralph Brown, Pemberton-row, Gough-square, printers, first div. of 3s. 4d. on the separate estate of Ralph Brown, and 4s. 3d. on the separate estate of Walter M'Dowall; at 2, Basinghall-street, any Wednesday.

BRITISH FUNDS.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
Spercent. Consols ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Otto for Account ..	94	94	—	94	94	95
3 percents Reduced ..	94	94	—	94	94	94
New 3 percents ..	95	95	—	96	96	95
Long Annuities ..	—	91	—	91	91	91
Bank Stock ..	205	206	—	205	206	206
India Stock ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exchequer Bills ..	9pm	10pm	—	10pm	10	10pm
India Bonds ..	—	—	—	—	—	16

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Belgian ..	98	Mexican ..	94
Brazilian ..	86	Peruvian ..	38
Buenos Ayres ..	43	Portuguese 5 per cents ..	81
Columbian ..	16	Ditto converted ..	38
Danish ..	86	Russian ..	112
Dutch 2 1/2 per cents ..	60	Spanish Active ..	26
Ditto 4 percents ..	92	Ditto Passive ..	51
French 3 per cents ..	81	Ditto Deferred ..	17

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham & Gloucester ..	129	London & Croydon Trunk ..	21
Blackwall ..	81	London and Greenwich ..	94
Bristol and Exeter ..	73	Manchester and Leeds ..	107
Eastern Counties ..	25	Midland Counties ..	128
Eastern Union ..	76	Ditto New Shares ..	32
Edinburgh and Glasgow ..	76	Manchester and Birming ..	74
Great North of England ..	238	Midland and Derby ..	105
Great Western ..	127	Norfolk ..	129
Ditto Half ..	71	North British ..	364
Ditto Fifths ..	29	South Eastern and Dover ..	45
London & North-Western ..	194	South Western ..	63
Ditto Quarter Shares ..	23	York and Newcastle ..	384
London and Brighton ..	62	York and North Midland ..	94

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, Dec. 28.

The weather since Wednesday has again set in very severe, which has caused an increased speculative demand for all kinds of feeding stuffs. Having a very short supply of wheat at this morning's market, millers were eager buyers at an advance of 2s. to 3s. per qr., and a clearance was early effected. Foreign wheat may also be quoted 1s. to 2s. per qr. dearer. Barley, beans, and peas, are all in good request, and about 2s. per qr. more money is obtainable for each. Oats are held generally for an advance of 1s. per qr., but the supply being equal to the demand, dealers act cautiously, and the trade is slow. Indian corn, with bills of lading in hand, would fetch very extreme prices, but there is none offering.

Wheat, Red ..	65 to 69	Malt, Ordinary ..	62 to 64
New ..	68 to 71	Pale ..	65 to 70
White ..	63 to 75	Rye ..	42 to 44
New ..	73 to 78	Peas, Hog ..	46 to 48
Flour, per sack (Town) ..	55 to 60	Maize ..	47 to 49
Barley ..	34 to 41	Boilers ..	49 to 53
Malt ..	40 to 49	Beans, Ticks ..	41 to 45
Beans, Pigeon ..	45 to 49	Wheat ..	4s. 0d.
Harrow ..	42 to 43	Barley ..	2 0
Oats, Feed ..	26 to 31	Oats ..	1 6
Fine ..	29 to 33	Rye ..	2 0
Poland ..	28 to 26	Beans ..	2 0
Potato ..	31 to 33	Peas ..	2 0

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR DEC. 25.

Wheat ..	60s. 3d.
Barley ..	43 1
Oats ..	26 5
Rye ..	42 11
Beans ..	45 0
Peas ..	48 7

AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.

Wheat ..	59s. 11d.
Barley ..	43 2
Oats ..	26 3
Rye ..	42 11
Beans ..	45 8
Peas ..	48 9

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Dec. 28.

With home-fed beasts we were scantily supplied, while the quality was very inferior. Hence—as the attendance of buyers was good, and the weather favourable to slaughtering—the beef trade was somewhat active, at an advance in the quotations of 2d. per 8lbs., the prime Scots readily producing 4s. 6d., at which price a good clearance was effected. The beasts were principally derived from the northern and midland counties. The numbers of sheep were very scanty; owing to which the mutton trade was firm at fully, but at nothing quotable beyond, last week's prices. In calves, a steady business was doing, at extreme rates; while pigs were in good demand, at somewhat enhanced currencies.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef ..	3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.	Veal ..	3s. 8d. to 4s. 8d.
Mutton ..	3 10 .. 5 2	Pork ..	3 8 .. 4 10

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday ..	336	326	3	80
Monday ..	2,610	17,280	55	290

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Dec. 28.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

Inferior Beef 2s. 10d. to 3s. 0d.	Inf. Mutton 3s. 6d. to 3s. 8d.
Middling do 3 0 .. 3 2	Mid. ditto 3 10 .. 4 2
Prime large 3 4 .. 3 6	Prime ditto 4 4 .. 4 8
Prime small 3 6 .. 3 8	Veal 3 8 .. 4 8
Large Pork 3 8 .. 4 2	Small Pork 4 4 .. 4 8

SEEDS, LONDON, Monday.—The belief that no further supplies of white clover seed can reach this country from abroad till spring, owing to the Elbe and Maas being blocked up by ice, has caused holders to demand somewhat enhanced rates, but the actual business done to-day was not important. The transactions in other sorts of seed were on quite a retail scale, and we have no change to notice in prices.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday.—The position of our market has undergone very little alteration since our last report. Butter.—During the last week there was a fair demand, and quite as much business done in all kinds of Irish as could be expected for the season of the year. Prices were well supported, and the market closed with a firm and healthy appearance. Foreign declined 2s. to 4s. per cwt., and not freely dealt in. Bacon.—Singed sides, without alteration in value, sold only to a moderate extent, on board and landed; shippers and holders not pressing sales, expecting advanced prices. Bale and tierce middles in short supply, in good demand, and the turn dealer. Hams sold slowly—prices not varied. Lard improved in demand and price. In cheese prices nominal, and without alteration. Little doing. The large importation of American will help to keep down the price of foreign and low English cheese.

POTATOES, SOUTHWARK, Waterside, Dec. 28.—The supply to the market during the past week from France was tolerably good, but from all other parts it was very limited. There was an advance in the prices for first-rate samples, but for inferior or secondary samples there was but little improvement.

BREAD.—The prices of wheat bread in the metropolis are from 9d. to 9 1/2d.; of household ditto, 7d. to 8 1/2d. per 4lbs. loaf.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Dec. 28.—The market has been dull, and business at this season is not looked to an extent that will influence the general range of quotations. There has been, however, a fair extent of business done in hops to-day; there are hardly any bags remaining, and the operations have been almost entirely confined to pockets. Quotations may be regarded as much the same to-day as on this day se'nlight, with rather increased firmness on the part of holders.

WOOL, CITY, Monday.—The imports of wool into London last week were about 600 or 700 bales; including arrivals from Hobart Town, Sydney, Germany, Tazanrog, &c. The wool market is quiet now, as usual at Christmas time; but some activity is expected when the new year is fairly set in. LEASES, Dec. 24.—There has been less doing in foreign wools during the past week, as is usual at this season of the year, but prices remain very firm. The demand for British this week has been moderate for the season. Prices are firm, and have an upward tendency.

COTTON, LIVERPOOL, Dec. 28.—The sales to-day amount to 15,000 bales, two-thirds being on speculation. Prices are again restored to the highest point of ten days ago; and again, on the whole, there is much confidence.

TALLOW, MONDAY, Dec. 28.—During the past week business has been less buoyant; but prices generally are well supported. Parcels of first sort Y. C. are selling at 51s.; but small parcels, to suit the wants of the trade, are not to be had under 51s. 3d. to 51s. 6d. For the spring months there are sellers at 52s., and for new Y. C. the last three months, 46s. Town tallow is not abundant, at 51s. net cash.

HIDES, LEADENHALL.—Market hides, 64lb. to 72lb., 3d. to 3 1/2d. per lb.; ditto, 72lb. to 80lb., 3d. to 3 1/2d.; ditto, 80lb. to 88lb., 3d. to 4d.; ditto, 88lb. to 96lb., 4d. to 5d.; ditto, 96lb. to 104lb., 5d. to 6d.; Calf-skins, each, 4s. 0d. to 6s. 6d.; Horse hides, 13s.; Lambs, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 10d.; Shearings, 1s. 6d. to 2s.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Dec. 26.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Meadow ..	45s. to 77s.	Oat Straw ..	28s. to 32s.
Clover Hay ..	65s. to 96s.	Wheat Straw ..	00s. to 00s.

COAL EXCHANGE, Dec. 23.

Stewart's, 25s. 6d.; Hutton's, 22s. 9d.; Braddy's Hutton's, 20s. 9d.; Lambton's, 22s. 9d.; West Hartley's, 23s. 0d. Ships arrived this week, 23.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE DISSENTERS' AND GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Instituted 1837.

Empowered by Special Act of Parliament, 3 Vict., c. 20.

62, King William-street, London-bridge, London;

21, St. David-street, Edinburgh;

6, King-street, Queen-square, Bristol.

Capital, One Million.

TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS.

George Bonfield, Esq.	S. Morton Peto, Esq.
T. Challis, Esq., Alderman.	Thomas Piper, Esq.
Jacob G. Cope, Esq.	Thomas B. Simpson, Esq.
John Dixon, Esq.	Edward Smith, Esq.
Joseph Fletcher, Esq.	Hon. C. P. Villiers, M.P.
Richard Hollier, Esq.	John Wilks, Esq.
Chas. Hindley, Esq., M.P.	Edward Wilson, Esq.

The CHRISTMAS Fire renewal Receipts are now ready, and may be had on application at the Head Offices of the Company, or of any of its Agents throughout the country.

In the LIFE DEPARTMENT the Company continues to transact all business relating to Life Assurances, Annuities, and Family Endowments, upon the most liberal terms consistent with sound principles and public security.

LOANS are also granted on equitable terms to Life Assurers on life interests, or satisfactory personal securities.

To all Agents, Solicitors, Auctioneers, and Surveyors, liberal allowance will be made.

By order of the Board,

THOMAS PRICE, Secretary.

COALS.—CUNDELL and COCKERELL, (late Beard and Co.), quote from the Coal Exchange Registry, (published by authority of the Corporation), that during the month of November last 348,921 tons of coals were sold in London, and out of this large quantity only 78,018 tons were best coals; from whence the inference is clear, and the fact undeniable, that although the great majority of consumers order best coals, very few families obtain them. C. and C. continue to deal ONLY IN BEST COALS, viz.: Stewart's, Hutton's, Lambton's, and Hartlepool, to which their trade has been confined for the last thirteen years. Present cash price, 31s. per ton.—Purfleet-wharf, Earl-street, Blackfriars.

IRISH EVANGELICAL SOCIETY.

MISSION TO CONNAUGHT.

THE COMMITTEE have great pleasure in acknowledging the undermentioned Contributions towards the £200 to be raised to meet the offer of an equal sum made by a Lady, who is anxious to increase the number of Agents employed by the Society in the province of Connaught. It will be seen that the amount received does not yet reach the specified sum, and the time within which, by the conditions under which the offer was made, the amount was to be obtained, being nearly expired, the Committee are exceedingly anxious lest the generous offer of their friend should, after all, fail. They would therefore earnestly entreat all who are interested in the cause of Evangelical instruction in the sister kingdom, especially in the native Irish language, to come forward promptly to their assistance, that they may be able, without the least delay, to effect an object so much to be desired.

Contributions will be received by T. M. Coombs, Esq., Treasurer, 14, Ludgate-street; Rev. T. James, Secretary, Blomfield-street, Finsbury; and at Messrs. Hankeys, Bankers, Fenchurch-street, London.

DONATIONS PROMISED OR RECEIVED.

	£	s.	d.
A Friend "who wishes the lady not to be disappointed" ..	1	0	0
Per Mr. Matthews, Weigh-house ..	1	0	0
Mr. Craven ..	1	0	0
T. M. Coombs, Esq. ..	5	0	0
G. Knox, Esq. ..	5	0	0
Rev. H. Allom and friends ..	5	0	0
— J. Bunter and friends ..	7	0	0
— J. Burnet and friends ..	10	0	0
— G. Smith and friends ..	5	0	0
— T. Aveling and friends ..	10	3	0
R. C. P., by T. M. Coombs, Esq. ..	10	0	0
By Rev. T. James—			
Miss Deakin, Attercliffe ..	3	0	0
Rev. H. Crosswell ..	1	0	0
H. Rutt, Esq. ..	1	0	0
T. Thompson, Esq. ..	1	0	0
J. Puget, Esq. ..	1	0	0
Mr. E. Smith ..	1	0	0
W. Leavers, Esq. ..	2	0	0
Rev. G. D. Culling, Leith ..	5	0	0
John Henderson, Esq., Glasgow ..	5	0	0
Mr. J. Ward, Wellington ..	5	0	0
Rev. M. A. Garvey and friends ..	3	0	0
Sir Culling E. Smith ..	20	0	0
Miss Proctor ..	2	0	0
E. Brock, Esq., Chatham ..	5	0	0
Mr. Whitchurch, Bristol ..	2	0	0
Joshua Wilson, Esq. ..	5	0	0
Samuel Morley, Esq. ..	5	0	0
Rev. T. Craig and friends, Bocking, including £5 from Mr. Porter, of Bridge-hall ..	25	0	0

BRITISH EMPIRE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

37, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars.

Provisionally Registered, pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., c. 110.

DIRECTORS.

Bunnell, P. Esq., St. Martin's-le-Grand.
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Cartwright, R. Esq., Chancery-lane.
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London and Westminster Bank, Lothbury.

SURGEON.

John Mann, Esq., 63, Bartholomew-close.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Watson and Sons, 12, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street.

SURVEYOR.

Thomas Turner, Esq., 20, Burton-crescent.

SECRETARY.

Mr. William Sutton Gover.

This Society has been formed with a view to combine and extend the advantages attending Societies for Life Assurance and well-conducted Building Societies.

With this view, assurances will be effected on all the contingencies connected with the duration of human life, on purely mutual principles; so that there being no Proprietary to take a share of the profits, they will belong entirely to parties assured for the whole term of life. Such profits will be applied, in addition to the respective policies, or in the reduction of the future premiums thereon, or a proportionate payment will be made in cash, as the parties entitled may prefer.

The funds will be employed in loans to such members of the Company as can offer to the Directors any description of available security to an adequate amount, such loans to be repayable by monthly instalments.

Prospectuses may be had on application to the Secretary, Mr. W. S. Gover, at the Offices, 37, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars. If by post, postage paid.

THE JANUARY NUMBER of the ECLECTIC

REVIEW contains, in addition to several Papers of general interest, Articles on

THOMAS CLARKSON, the ABOLITIONIST,
THE DOCTRINE OF FUTURE PUNISHMENT,
THE FREE-TRADE MOVEMENT IN FRANCE,

and the
CONTROVERSY on STATE EDUCATION, between Messrs BAINES, VAUGHAN, and SWAINE.

This Number, being the First of a New Volume, affords an excellent opportunity for commencing a Subscription to the Work.

WARD and Co., 27, Paternoster-row.

MISSIONARY PORTRAIT GALLERY.

THE PATRIOT NEWSPAPER.

THE PUBLISHERS of the PATRIOT have much satisfaction in announcing that the Second Portrait of the Series will be ready for Subscribers in January, 1847. It is an original and striking likeness of that eminent Missionary and Philanthropist, the late

WILLIAM KNIBB.

By those who are best qualified to form a judgment, it is pronounced to be the most highly finished and characteristic Portrait of him that has yet appeared.

The execution of

BOYS' MISSION SCHOOL, WALTHAMSTOW.

WANTED, suitable PREMISES for the above Institution, in a healthy locality in the neighbourhood of London. The Premises must be large enough to accommodate forty or fifty children, and near to a chapel. Apply to Rev. J. J. Freeman, Mission-house, Blomfield-street.

LIGHT.—CAMPINE, CANDLES.—Patent CAMPINE, in sealed half-gallon cans, 4s. 9d. per gallon; Palmer's Patent Candles, 8d. per lb., at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S (late Rippon and Burton's), 39, Oxford-street, corner of Newman-street, whose assortment of Campine, Argand, and Solar Lamps, and Palmer's Magnum and other Candlesticks, with all the latest improvements, and of the newest and most recherche patterns, is the largest in existence. All the seasonable novelties are now ready, and selling from 20 to 30 per cent. under any house with whom quality and style are considerations. The money returned for every article not approved of. Detailed Catalogues, with Engravings, sent (per post) free.

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE for SILVER.—The high estimate formed by the public during the twelve years WILLIAM S. BURTON'S (late RIPPON and BURTON'S) chemically purified material has been before it (made into every useful and ornamental article usually made in silver, possessing, as it does, the characteristic purity and durability of silver), has called into existence the deleterious compounds of "Albata Plate," "Berlin Silver," and other so-called substitutes; they are at best but bad imitations of the genuine articles manufactured and sold only by him.

	Fiddle	Threaded	King's
Table Spoons and Forks, full Pattern.	12s.	28s.	30s.
size per dozen.	10s.	21s.	25s.
Dessert ditto and ditto, ditto.	5s.	11s.	12s.
Tea ditto and ditto, ditto.	3s.	6s.	7s.
Gravy ditto.			

NICKEL-ELECTRO-PLATED.—The REAL NICKEL SILVER, introduced and made only by WILLIAM S. BURTON (late RIPPON and BURTON'S), when plated by the patent process of Messrs. Elkington and Co., is, beyond all comparison, the very best article, next to sterling silver, that can be employed as such, either usefully or ornamentally. In the lengthened and increasing popularity of the material itself, and the high character of the method of plating, the public have a guarantee that the articles sold by W. S. BURTON (and by him only), are, as it regards wear, immeasurably superior to what can be supplied at any other house, while by no possible test can they be distinguished from real silver.

	Fiddle	Thread	King's
Teaspoons, per dozen	18s.	32s.	38s.
Dessert Forks	30s.	46s.	58s.
Dessert Spoons	30s.	52s.	62s.
Table Forks	40s.	68s.	75s.
Table Spoons	40s.	72s.	80s.

Tea and coffee sets, waiters, candlesticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of re-plating done by the patent process. Detailed catalogues, with engravings, as well as of every ironmongery article, sent (per post) free.

WILLIAM S. BURTON'S (late RIPPON and BURTON'S) Stock of general Furnishing Ironmongery is literally the largest in the world, and as no language can be employed to give a correct idea of its variety and extent, purchasers are invited to call and inspect it.—39, Oxford-street (corner of Newman-street).—Established in Wells-street, 1830.

GEORGE AND JOHN DEANE'S WAREHOUSES, SHOW-ROOMS, and MANUFACTORIES, Opening to the Monument, 46, KING WILLIAM-STREET, LONDON-BRIDGE.

THE DEANEAN, and ELECTRO-DEANEAN PLATE.—The first is a pure Metal, for Whiteness and Durability inferior only to Silver. The second has the Deanean Plate for its base, surmounted by a thick coating of Sterling Silver. Both are manufactured in the following Articles:—

Butter Coolers	Mugs for Christening Presents
Bottle Stands, in great variety	Mustard Pots
Cake Baskets, of the Newest	Pickle Frames
Fashions	Salt, gilt inside
Card Baskets	Soy Frames
Candlesticks, Table	Snuffers and Trays
" Chamber	Soup and Sauce Tureens
" Pianoforte	Spoons and Forks, very various
Cruet Frames and Glasses	Table Dishes
Communion Plate	Table Candlesticks, with Shades
Cutlery, with Silver and Plated	Tea Caddies
Handles	Tea and Coffee Equipages
Dessert Fruit Knives and Forks	Tea Trays
Dish Covers	Tea Kettles, with Stands
Plate Covers	Tea Urns
Egg Frames	Toast Racks
Epergnes	Venison Dishes
Hash Dishes and Warmers	Vegetable Dishes
Ice-pails	Waiters, a large assortment
Inkstands	Wine Coolers
Liqueur Frames and Glasses	" Funnels
Meat Dishes	

The Spoons and Forks will be found especially worthy of attention by those who, during the coming season, are desirous of saving their silver plate. The style of these articles is the very same as the Genuine Silver, while their cost is comparatively trifling. The following are selected from the most running patterns:—

Plain Fiddle Pattern	Plain Shell Pattern	King's Pattern
Threaded "	Victoria "	National "
Threaded Shell "	Albert "	

In Tea, Table, Dessert, and Gravy Spoons; Table and Dessert Forks.

THE NONCONFORMIST COMMUNION SERVICE.

Manufactured also of the same Metal, has been very extensively adopted. Its simple yet elegant design recommends it at once to Protestant Dissenters, and its cheapness puts it within the reach of Congregations whose means are the most limited.

THE DEANEAN PLATE POWDER has fine Cleansing and Polishing properties. It is very much the favourite in Hotels and Gentlemen's Families.

Ladies and Gentlemen resident in London are respectfully invited to view George and John Deane's Plate Rooms for themselves. Prospectuses forwarded by post to all parts of the country. Orders executed with the utmost care and despatch.

Under the distinguished Patronage of his Majesty the King of Prussia, his Majesty the King of Hanover, and most of the Nobility and Clergy of the United Kingdom, and especially recommended by the Faculty.

KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES.—A Certain Remedy for Disorders of the Pulmonary Organs. In Difficulty of Breathing, in Redundancy of Phlegm, in Incipient Consumption (of which Cough is the most positive indication), they are of unerring efficacy. In Asthma, and in Winter Cough, they have never been known to fail.

KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES are free from every deleterious ingredient; they may, therefore, be taken at all times by the most delicate female and by the youngest child; while the Public Speaker and the Professional Singer will find them invaluable in allaying the hoarseness and irritation incidental to vocal exertion, and consequently a powerful auxiliary in the production of melodious enunciation.

Prepared and sold in boxes, 1s. 14d., and tins, 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. each, by THOMAS KEATING, Chemist, &c., No. 79, St. Paul's-churchyard, London. Sold retail by all Druggists and Patent Medicine Vendors in the Kingdom.

RECENT TESTIMONIAL.

DEAR SIR,—Having been for a considerable time during the winter afflicted with a violent cough, particularly at lying down in bed, which continued for several hours incessantly; and after trying many medicines without the slightest effect, I was induced to try your lozenges; and by taking about half a box of them in less than twenty-four hours, the cough entirely left me, and I have been perfectly free from it ever since.

I am, dear Sir, yours very respectfully,
JAMES ELLIS,
Feb. 17, 1845.
(Late Proprietor of the Chapter Coffee-house, St. Paul's).

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL.

THE OFFICES of this INSTITUTION, are now REMOVED from the CITY-ROAD, to 19, GRESHAM-STREET, near the Bank of England, where the Secretary is in attendance daily, from Ten until Four.

TEAS of the true OLD-FASHIONED KIND, as formerly imported by the East India Company (and with which the name of SPARROW has for many years been identified), at the following reduced scale of prices:—Strong and full-flavoured Congou (a most economical tea for large consumers, at 3s. 8d.; sterling Congou (of superior strength and flavour), 4s.; finest Congou (strongly recommended), 4s. 8d.; fine ripe old Pekoe Souchong (one of the finest specimens imported), 5s.; strong Green, 3s. 8d.; to 4s.; genuine Hyson or young Hyson, 5s.; the finest Cowslip Hyson or young Hyson (very fragrant), 6s.; strong Gunpowder, 5s. 4d. to 6s.; and the finest Gunpowder (heavy leaf), 7s.

No Bohea or inferior Teas kept. Orders by post or otherwise, containing a remittance or respectable reference, will be dealt with in a way that will ensure future orders and recommendations.

The carts of this establishment deliver goods in all parts of town free of expense.

COFFEE as in FRANCE.—It is a fact beyond dispute, that in order to obtain really fine coffee, there must be a combination of the various kinds; and to produce strength and flavour, certain proportions should be mixed according to their different properties; thus it is we have become celebrated for our delicious Coffee at 1s. 8d., which is the astonishment and delight of all who have tasted it, being the produce of four countries, selected and mixed by rule peculiar to our establishment, in proportions not known to any other house.

From experiments we have made on the various kinds of Coffee, we have arrived at the fact, that no one kind possesses strength and flavour. If we select a very strong coffee, it is wanting in flavour; by the same rule, we find the finest and most flavoured coffees are generally wanting in strength; and as they are usually sold each kind separately, quite regardless of their various properties, the consumer is not able to obtain really fine coffee at any price. There is also another peculiar advantage we possess over other houses—our roasting apparatus being constructed on decidedly scientific principles, whereby the strong aromatic flavour of the coffee is preserved, which, in the ordinary process of roasting, is entirely destroyed; and, as we are coffee roasters, we are enabled to keep a full supply of fresh roasted coffee continually after the Parisian and Continental method.

The rapid and still increasing demand for this coffee has caused great excitement in the trade, and several unprincipled houses have copied our papers, and profess to sell a similar coffee. We therefore think it right to CAUTION the public, and to state that our superior mixture of four countries is a discovery of our own, and therefore the proportions are not known, nor can it be had at any other house, and that in future we shall distinguish it from all others as

SPARROW'S CONTINENTAL COFFEE, at 1s. 8d. per lb. Packed in tins of all sizes, perfectly air-tight, for the country. We have also strong and useful Coffees from 1s. to 1s. 4d.

Tea Establishment, 95, High Holborn, adjoining Day and Martin's, leading through into 22, Dean-street.

HENRY SPARROW, Proprietor.

THE NEW TOOTH-BRUSH, made on the most

scientific principle, thoroughly cleaning between the teeth, when used up and down, and polishing the surface when used crossways. This brush so entirely enters between the closest teeth, that the inventor has decided upon naming it the Toothpick Brush; therefore ask for it under that name, marked and numbered as under:—viz.: full-sized brushes, marked T. P. W., No. 1 hard, No. 2 less hard, No. 3 middling, No. 4 soft; the narrow brushes, marked T. P. N., No. 5 hard, No. 6 less hard, No. 7 middling, No. 8 soft. These imitable brushes are only to be had at ROSS and SONS', and they warrant the hair never to come out, at 1s. each, or 10s. per dozen in bone, and 2s. each, or 21s. per dozen in ivory.

THE ATRAPILATORY, OR LIQUID HAIR

DYE; the only dye that really answers for all colours, and does not require re-doing but as the hair grows, as it never fades or acquires that unnatural red or purple tint common to all other dyes. ROSS and SONS can with the greatest confidence recommend the above dyes as infallible, if done at their establishment; and the ladies and gentlemen requiring it are requested to bring a friend or servant with them, to see how it is used, which will enable them to do it afterwards without the chance of failure. Several private apartments devoted entirely to the above purpose; and some of their establishment having used it, the effect produced can be at once seen. They think it necessary to add, that by attending strictly to the instructions given with each bottle of dye, numerous persons have succeeded equally well without coming to them.

Address ROSS and SONS, 119 and 120, Bishopsgate-street, London, the celebrated Perruquiers and Perfumers, Hair-cutters and Hair-dyers. N.B.—Parties attended at their own residences, whatever the distance.

ACCEPTABLE PRESENTS.—The present season

is hallowed by one of the most delightful offices of friendship and affection—the interchange of Gifts as remembrances of the donors, and tokens of their esteem for the receivers. The most appropriate present becomes the first subject of consideration. A merely useful one can afford no evidence of taste; while a present possessing no claims to utility shows a want of judgment. To combine these requisites, a more fitting souvenir cannot be suggested than

ROWLANDS' TOILET ARTICLES:

THE

"MACASSAR OIL," "KALYDOR," and "ODONTO," of infallible attributes, in their operation on the Hair, the Skin, and the Teeth.

The august Patronage conceded by our gracious Queen, the Royal Family, and the several Sovereigns and Courts of Europe, together with the confirmation by experience of the infallible efficacy of these creative and renovating specifics, have characterised them with perfection, and given them a celebrity unparalleled.

A few words on the merits of these admired specifics will doubtless be appreciated in the present instance.

ROWLANDS' MACASSAR OIL

is a delightfully fragrant and transparent preparation for the Hair, and as an invigorator and beautifier is beyond all precedent. It bestows a permanent gloss, with a silky softness, and a tendency to curl. Weakness, premature greyness, relaxation, and tendency to fall off, are also entirely prevented by this "incomparable" oil.

Price 3s. 6d., 7s. Family bottles (equal to four small), 10s. 6d., and double that size, 21s. per bottle.

ROWLANDS' KALYDOR,

a balmy, odoriferous, creamy liquid, as equally celebrated for safety in application as for its mild and soothing operation, in thoroughly purifying the Skin of all eruptive maladies, freckles, tan, and discolorations; in producing a healthy freshness and transparency of complexion; and an admired softness and delicacy of the hands, arms, and neck!

Price 4s. 6d. and 8s. 6d. per bottle.

ROWLANDS' ODONTO, or PEARL DENTIFRICE, a White Powder for the Teeth, compounded of the choicest and most recherche ingredients of the Oriental herbal—of inestimable virtue for preserving and beautifying the Teeth and strengthening the Gums. It bestows on the teeth a pearl-like whiteness, frees them from tartar, and imparts to the Gums a healthy firmness, and to the breath a grateful sweetness and perfume.

Price 2s. 9d. per box.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION.—Unprincipled Shopkeepers, for the sake of gaining a trifling profit, vend the most spurious compounds, under the same names; some under the implied sanction of royalty, and the government departments, with similar attempts at deception. They copy the labels, bills, advertisements, and testimonials (substituting fictitious names and addresses for the real) of the original preparations. It is therefore highly necessary to see that the word "ROWLANDS" is on the wrapper of each article.

* All others are FRAUDULENT IMITATIONS!

The Genuine Preparations are sold by the Proprietors,

A. ROWLAND and SON, 29, Hatton-garden, London,

And by all respectable Chemists and Perfumers.

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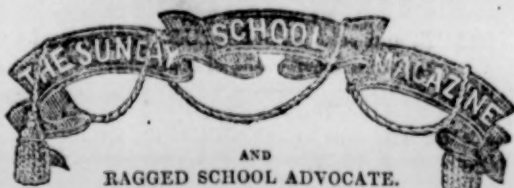
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1. That his resignation be accepted, and that the cordial thanks of the Committee be presented to him for his past services.
2. That the Rev. J. Spong be respectfully invited to accept the office.
3. That the Rev. A. Good and the Rev. E. Mannering be requested to allow their names to be added to the Committee for the following year.

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